

Police and Crime Committee

10 July 2014

Transcript Item 6: Question and Answer Session with the Mayor of London, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We now move on to the main item this morning which is our question and answer session with the Mayor of London, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service. Can I welcome you all here this morning? Our main item is to look at, a year on from the Police and Crime Plan; but we have notified you of a couple of topical issues we wanted to ask you about, so we will start with those. Mr Mayor, we understand that water cannon are now in the country. Is that correct?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): To the best of my belief they are in the country, although I don't think their location has been divulged. They are being prepared for use in this country and obviously we await the certificate from the Home Office, where the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) is due to make its recommendation.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Do you have any idea about the time line for that at the minute?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I cannot give you any. On the SACMILL, that is really a matter for the Home Office.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK, thank you. If the licence is granted before the summer, would you, Mr Mayor, support the proactive deployment of water cannon at events this summer?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No. I would oppose the use of water cannon except in absolutely exceptional circumstances. I have never tired of telling you, Joanne, and I don't think anybody on this side wants to see water cannon used on the streets of London. The objective is to make sure the police do have a resource of crowd control which might, in some very exceptional circumstances, be necessary; and that is why they are here. They are being refitted, I don't know where they are or what they are disguised as at the moment, but they will be able to be deployed in some very, very, very remote eventualities.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): When Sir Hugh Orde gave evidence to this Committee, in February, he said that if you want to use water cannon effectively it needs to be in place close to the site of the expected disorder, and before the event takes place. So, to take an example

such as Notting Hill Carnival, if there is intelligence that there might be some disorder, would you support water cannon being deployed in advance?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): As I have said, there are very, very few circumstances in which I wish to see water cannon deployed at all, and I think we are probably best to leave it at that.

John Biggs AM: Apart from against yourself, I believe.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That is absolutely correct. John interjects, and it is absolutely true, that I have said if we are going to ask Londoners in these very, very remote eventualities, in these very exceptional circumstances, to be exposed to the risk of water cannon; I think it probably is right that this novel use of crowd control should be properly tested, and I said very clearly and publicly that I will have a go myself. I know there is a long queue of people who are only too happy to be pulling the trigger or whatever you do, depressing the firing nozzle. That is something that we will be able to organise.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Perhaps I can ask Sir Bernard, if the licence is granted before the summer, are you anticipating using it this summer? Do you have any intelligence yet that there may be disorder?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): As the Mayor has said, and I have said, we think it would be rarely used and rarely seen. It is there as a fall back and a contingency but it is not going to be front and centre of our operations. So, we will not be talking about its operational deployment and we do not expect to see it deployed very -- well, I don't think, hardly at all really. Our ambition would be for a generation, it is not seen but should it be needed, then it would be available.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We will have to hold you to that about rarely seen and rarely used if a licence is granted.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Of course.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Sir Hugh Orde, when he gave evidence to this Committee, said, and I quote him, "From a professional perspective, deterrent is far better than deployment". This implied that in Northern Ireland, for example, they got them out and showed them off to stop any possible problems. Can I just have a guarantee from you that water cannon will not be used in that way? They will not be on display to try to deter protestors?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I think there are different situations and you would have to consider Sir Hugh's experience in Northern Ireland and what they achieved in Northern Ireland in difficult circumstances. But that is not our intention.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Mayor, you have said one of the first jobs of your Ethics Panel is to draw up an ethical framework for the use of these water cannon. If they have not finished that ethical framework, would you still allow the deployment?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Well, as I have said, there are lots of steps we have to go through, Jenny, before this becomes a reality. First of all, the SACMILL has to make its recommendations and the Home Secretary has to make her decision. Then, as I say, it is only going to be a tiny, tiny number of possible circumstances, stretching over maybe decades, that you could envisage such a technique of crowd control being used. I just want to go back to what I have said many times and to echo what the Commissioner has said. I do not think anybody wants to see these devices used on the streets of London. What we do want to make sure is that if there arise circumstances where life and limb is in jeopardy, where people's property could be protected, where Londoners really would like to see the deployment of such techniques - which are an intermediate technique after all between normal use of police standing in a row and baton rounds or horse charges or whatever it happens to be, if Londoners -if there are such circumstances, then yes, of course it might be conceivable that water cannon could be useful. But those circumstances are going to be, in my view, vanishingly rare.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am going to repeat the question in the hope of an answer. If your Ethics Panel has not finished its ethical framework before you are asked to deploy water cannon, will you still deploy them or will you wait for an ethical framework from your Ethics Panel?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Let us be clear. To repeat my answer, if I may, since you have been kind enough to repeat your question, there are a lot of hoops still to go through before we can even consider the deployment of water cannon on the streets of London. The deployment of such a technique is an operational matter for the Commissioner. My own view is that it is vanishingly unlikely that such a technique will be called upon.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Commissioner, in the event that the Mayor's Ethics Panel has not completed its ethical framework, would you still ask the Mayor to deploy water cannon in these vanishingly small circumstances?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): First of all, as the Mayor has made clear, when eventually, if eventually, this kit is licensed, it is an operational decision about deployment but, of course, I am sure we will talk about that. In terms of timings, I do not think that problem will arise. The work that the Ethics Panel is carrying out, I am sure will take a few weeks, perhaps months; and we do not yet know how long it will take for the licensing process. I think it is unlikely that the Ethics Panel will finish their work by the time of the licensing.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You feel it is unlikely?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not see it as being a real challenge over the next few months. We cannot operationally deploy it, that is what the law says, so therefore I just don't see it as a problem.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Then can you give me a straight answer, please? Will you deploy these if you feel it is needed --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Jenny, I am not going to answer a hypothetical question which I do not think will materialise.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Do you feel that the ethical framework is a crucial part of deploying these vehicles?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is certainly an important part but I suppose what we will all be faced with, should the necessity arise, is whether or not, having got the kit and having argued that it is operationally necessary; and if it is licensed, if the only issue to be resolved was the ethical aspects of it, we hope to be content to not use kit that we have got., That would be a dilemma we can address at the time, but I do not think it is going to arise.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): OK. Moving on then - have you already started training officers in the use of water cannon?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Not yet because, as the Mayor said, they only arrived over the last few days and we are refitting them. These are just fairly basic things to do with making sure we have got cameras on them, for example. The idea is the operator of the water cannon would gather evidence to show that, in fact, when they deployed the cannon it was actually proportionate and if it actually hit any individuals, then we would have gathered evidence to show that these people had not desisted. That has got to be done and I think there is something to be done around the pressure on the thing itself, to make sure it is consistent with the kit that is already deployed in Northern Ireland because there is some difference in the way that the Germans operate theirs. So, we are just trying to make sure that technically it is good kit and then after that, we have got to wait for the licensing to be agreed.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Will you be ready to deploy them in the summer?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am not sure that we will actually.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Actually this is the summer, isn't it. So, you are not ready to deploy them in the summer.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have only got them over the last few days and the technical things are being done. Therefore, clearly we have not trained with them yet so, therefore, we would have to have a period of training and then we would have to think about how we might deploy.

So, I think all that taken together, as you know we have got a very big organisation and there are only three of them, we have got a lot of officers to train with them, so at the beginning it would be unlikely we could deploy them unless we trained people to use them and to work with them. It is not only people who use them but the officers who have to work around them and I doubt the horses have seen them. There are an awful lot of things that we have to think about. Needs must if something awful happened, I am sure we would all have to think again, but broadly I think this is going to take a few months to get to a stage where we can deploy should that eventuality present itself.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I was going to come to you, Mr Mayor, because actually I am very keen that these are never deployed. In fact, I was very keen that they would not be bought either. You bought them because they would have been bought by somebody else if we had not got them. They are a bargain and you saved money and that sort of thing. So, if the Home Secretary sees sense and does not licence them, you will be able to sell them on?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That is absolutely right but let's cross that bridge if and when we come to it. I just want to say one thing about the whole context of water cannons. I think there is a slight risk that we are going to get a bit hung up on this issue. The police, every year in this city, manage 5,000 marches, demonstrations of all kinds and they do an absolutely blindingly brilliant job. It is very, very important that they receive support for what they do. I want to make it clear that there is not going to be any change to the way the police manage demonstrations. I think there were lessons to be learned from crowd control in the riots in 2011 and I think that it is clear to everybody that perhaps a more assertive approach on that Saturday night might have made a big difference in stopping the spread of the riots. We have learned that lesson and the police have learned that lesson. There is not going to be a big change in the way demonstrations and crowd activity are policed in London. All that is happening is that a tiny gap in the repertoire, a tiny gap in the approach of the Metropolitan Police Service is being filled, and it is a theoretical gap. It is very, very important that people understand that. But also I think people will feel reassured that that gap is being filled and if the Metropolitan Police Service should need to use water cannon in, as I say, these vanishingly unlikely circumstances, then they have that facility.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Since you are talking about theoretical ideas, perhaps you could say that if we have to sell them on, are you going to have any ethical criteria about who we sell them to. Would you sell them to a repressive regime, for example? Have you actually thought that through?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Again, you are building a hypothesis upon a hypothesis.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am. Just as you have hypothesised endlessly this morning, would you please just tackle my hypothesis that you might have to sell them on if they are not licensed?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): OK I will address your hypothetical question, Jenny, and I cannot imagine circumstances in which we would want to sell them on to a repressive regime.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You think you can sell them easily because other people are interested in them. I am just concerned --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I am assured that that is the case, yes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. We will move on to another topic now.

Roger Evans AM: At the last meeting, we had a discussion which I think Stephen [Greenhalgh] will recall about changes to the Metropolitan Police Service senior management. Mr Mayor, I think the Committee would appreciate your explanation of what role you played in the decision to move Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick away from the anti-terrorism position.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Let's be absolutely clear. That is not a decision for me, Roger, as you know full well. Obviously I was advised of the decision and informed and so on and so forth, but those are questions, really I think in all seriousness, which ought to be addressed to the Commissioner.

Roger Evans AM: OK, thank you.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes, I wanted to ask the Commissioner, I think at the moment there is an emergency Cabinet meeting going on looking at some emergency legislation, which I think all parties have signed up to, following a recent European Court of Justice ruling around telecom companies and their ability to retain records. I was wondering whether you have been, as the Metropolitan Police Service is a lead for counter-terrorism for the country, asked for your views on this over recent weeks to feed into this emergency legislation?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have been consulting with the Government, probably over the last 18 months, because this is not the first attempt at legislation to resolve this problem. The problem is not only to do with the European Directive. It is also to do with the fact that, technically, the way telecommunications data is collected has changed. What that has meant is that it produces challenges. For example, the companies do not need to keep some of this data for billing. They have changed the way that they bill people. The problem is that if they do not keep it, we cannot have it and the legislation has not caused them to keep it. That is one issue.

There has also been another issue which is about some of the organisations involved, not only the telecommunications providers but also the internet providers have actually changed the locations of their operating centres; and that changes the nature of the legislation if it is not extra-territorial. So, this legislation that now looks as though it is going to be agreed, although we have not seen the full detail of it yet. Usually with the bills you do not see the full detail until the end. It is trying to address the fact that these changes in the nature of telecommunications have to be addressed by new legislation. I know that some people become concerned that, in fact, these changes in legislation are supposed to increase the amount of surveillance. I think certainly I would argue all we are trying to do is maintain the level of surveillance that we already have and if we do not do this, we lose it and it is vital. It is vital not

only to counter terrorist operations but, particularly, to serious crime and at some levels it helps us genuinely to save lives. If we have kidnaps, it is one of the things that is a vital thing that we need, but it is also important in terms of homicide, robbery and drug investigations. It is a vital day-to-day need that we have. If we lose it, and there is some danger that we are already losing it, then I think we will all be less safe.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is about enshrining the existing rights rather than extending them.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes but I think one of the things that started to concern people last year probably is, obviously with the Snowden revelations, people start to get very concerned about how much intrusion does this state have already, and if you are merely maintaining what you have is that too much intrusion. So, I think sadly that has complicated the matter. I understand why people have got worried and probably lack trust in the whole system, but my view as a police officer, and the only advice I would give to the Mayor, to you and to the Government would be that we have got to have this capacity; and if we don't, the police won't lose out, but I think the victims will.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I am just wondering, Mr Mayor, whether you had been asked for your views on this, as this has clearly been going on for some months.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): My general view, Caroline, I can give you which is that I think when you look at some of the cases that the police have been able to crack, if you look at the threat that the city and, indeed, the country faces, it is very important that they should be able to monitor communications of people who might mean the public serious harm. That is my view.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. Were you asked for your views to feed in to the Home Office or is that just your general view?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I have given my general view to the Commissioner and to the MOPAC as you would expect.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Commissioner, in the recent undercover police case the women brought against the Metropolitan Police Service, the judge actually said there is a clear prima facie case of two officers who were clearly undercover police and that that was now public knowledge. Carrying on with the "neither confirm nor deny" policy that the Metropolitan Police Service has been using was only likely to postpone the day of reckoning. I am wondering if at this stage you are actually going to acknowledge what is already in the public domain about these officers, because clearly the women need to move on and it just would be good to get a feeling that the Metropolitan Police Service understands that this perhaps now is becoming ridiculous. What policy changes are you going to make?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): First of all, just to be clear and to be fair Jenny, it is not our policy alone. It is actually the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) policy and it is actually policy that is accepted by the courts. So the "no confirm, no deny" policies is accepted in the criminal courts and the civil courts up to now. The particular problem in this case is that, of course, some of the people involved -- and I am going to have to be careful how I phrase this if you do not mind because some of the words I have actually used here and in other places have been played back in the civil litigation. So, we say we have got "no confirm, no deny" and then I imply, "I do confirm". So, I need to be a little bit careful.

In general terms, first of all we think that the "no confirm, no deny" policy is a good one, because it helps us protect a vital operational tool that we have. We do not have too many secrets. There is no doubt, however, that we end up with a difficulty, a dilemma; when some of the things are clearly in the public domain, often put there by, it appears, some of the officers involved. Secondly, we have got these allegations about relationships and children that flow from that. On a personal level, if all that is true - I have said before and I repeat - when all this is resolved, I would like to see the women and apologise. But of course by doing that, I confirm, I presume. That is a bit of a dilemma, an ethical dilemma but one I think we can resolve. In terms of legality, and it may be the Deputy Commissioner corrects me, I think what the judge said is that broadly he accepts generally that the "no confirm, no deny" policy is okay, but in two of the cases, the circumstances defeat logic. It is really silly to keep denying things that are clearly obvious. So, it is accepted as a general principle, but that in two of the cases that will have to change. Have I got that right?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is not going to lead to any policy change, as such?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Not yet, no.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It will be challenged in court. I think we are going to have to keep addressing it and I think for the Ethics Panel, which the Mayor has established, it is one of those things that I would encourage other people to help us think through as well, because there are dangers both ways. We could argue there are unique circumstances to do with these and, therefore, we just treat them as one-off cases; but it may be we are actually having to learn that we are going to have to deal with this differently in the future. So, I think the police have a view and we want to protect the tactic, but we are going to have to think through the ethics of it too.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you. Moving on to a different issue now which is, of course, this is the day of strikes. I wondered about the security contract at the two main surge points at the Palace of Westminster. Is the Metropolitan Police Service going to bid for the contract of those?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have not decided for certain. I think that is very unlikely. The only reason we have not decided for certain is because they have not actually decided that they will outsource it. Just, perhaps, for the Committee in case they are unaware, there are probably three broad levels to that contract with Parliament which we have had for many years. First of all is the policing. Parliament pays for the police officers there. Number two is they pay for the screening which the Metropolitan Police Service provides. Three, they pay for the security officers who are around Parliament, who are police officers. When the negotiation first started, Parliament was considering outsourcing the lot. I say outsourcing, but considering could somebody else do it because the Ministry of Defence do the policing. It was decided fairly quickly that, in fact, the Metropolitan Police Service would continue. The screening we all accept could be done by an outsourced contract. We see this in many buildings where Government departments have outsourced their screening. Then there has been some debate about the security officers. I think where Parliament has got to, they have not made their own decision, is that both the officers and the security officers would be still Metropolitan Police Service, and the debate is going to be around the screening. Then the final part is how many of the screening points would be contracted out. There are three main routes getting into Parliament and then there are some more minor ones. I think there is a debate about whether Parliament would like to see us do the smaller ones and then outsource the rest, whereas we would like to see the lot go, if it is going; but we have not got to the end of that discussion yet.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you. I have been lobbied on this.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Really?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I will bring it up again.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. We are now going to move to questions on the MOPAC Annual Report which is one year on from the Police and Crime Plan. Perhaps if I can just start the questions, looking at public perceptions of the Metropolitan Police Service, you set a target for the Metropolitan Police Service to be the best loved police force in the country with the highest levels of public confidence. Now, the crime survey for England and Wales shows that public confidence in policing remains static. How are you going to deliver your target of increasing public confidence by 20% in the next 18 months if you are to meet your target, Mr Mayor?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): You are absolutely right, Joanne. This is the most challenging of the 2020 20 targets that we have set the Metropolitan Police Service. The first way of addressing the confidence issue is to keep going with the great success that the police are having in achieving the first target, which is cutting crime and they are doing an amazing job of cutting crime.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We have some questions on that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That obviously feeds into public confidence because when people feel that their neighbourhoods are safer, although you can never minimise the

impact of crime on individuals, when people as a whole start to feel that the neighbourhood, the city is becoming safer, then that will start to feed into confidence. I think confidence is the toughest nut to crack in a way, but we have deliberately set that target because we want to see it cracked; and I think it has been languishing for a very long time, although it is slightly improving. I think the figures are such that it is certainly improving now in London as against the rest of the country where - from an admittedly low base - we are now moving up the rankings. The latest figures show that 68% of Londoners think the Metropolitan Police Service is doing a good or excellent job in their area.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I think that is the Metropolitan Police Service's own internal confidence survey. It is actually about the crime survey --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): That is the best -- what they call the public attitude survey.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes but this is the crime survey for England and Wales which is the one that you agreed you would judge your targets by.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes, yes. On that one, there is a slight rise to 62.7% which is not catastrophic but it is not as good as we would like to see. Now, the way to address this is to continue to build up the belief in London that this is a police force that serves all of us and is there for every member of the community. That is why it has been so important to recruit as widely as possible in London and Bernard [Hogan-Howe] and Stephen [Greenhalgh] may want to say a bit more about that. However, as I have said many times to you and to this Committee, I want to see a police force that really represents and reflects London. Progress is being made. It is slow progress, but undoubted progress is being made in this respect, and you are seeing a change in the composition of the Metropolitan Police Service and that is a great thing. It should be going further and faster and I know that the Commissioner has ideas for accelerating that process. That is clearly one of the most important ways of boosting confidence.

I also think that it is important that people should recognise that if they have a crime, if they are victims of a crime, if they experience something where they want the police, the pledge that Sir Bernard has made to Londoners and which we fully support is that the police will attend you. They will come to you. There have been 200,000 such visits since that policy was announced. I think it is the right thing to do. What people feel most strongly is that when something bad happens, when they are victims of a crime, the police are not interested or they do not come fast enough or they do not seem to care enough. We are now really trying to address that problem.

A third thing is, obviously, neighbourhood policing and the sense that the police are out there for us. They are in the neighbourhoods, they are in the communities. Now, I know you want to talk about the vagaries of the local policing model and how that is working, and whether it is perfect. Yet, there are another 2,600 police in the neighbourhood teams or 2,500, it will be 2,600, and that is important and it is important to get police out there on the street.

Now, the question is where are they deployed? Are they deployed in every single ward in equal strength or do you deploy them in the areas where they are most needed. Clearly it makes sense to deploy police in the town centres in the areas where there is going to be a higher risk of crime.

I know that you have had representations, because you have mentioned this to me before, from people in your constituency who say that they are not seeing enough police out on the street. People will say that and that may be, it will not always be the answer, but that may be because they are in a relatively low crime area and the police are somewhere else. I accept that the local policing model is something that, and I am sure this is an operational matter that Bernard [Hogan-Howe] will want to comment on, can be improved and will be improved. I will go back to the first point. The results are really very encouraging. They do speak for themselves. You can never be complacent about crime. Every Londoner who is a victim of crime will feel deeply upset and we have to understand that. We do understand that. No-one should minimise people's experience of crime. If you look at the overall volume of crimes, it is coming down very sharply and that is largely a credit to the work of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We have got questions on all of that coming up. Can I just say actually I had, in fact, an email only yesterday from a high crime ward in my area, where residents are saying that in actual fact their police officers now do not come to meetings with them. The sergeant says that she is fire fighting all the time and people are complaining about visibility. Can I say, we have got Caroline [Pidgeon] leading questions on that --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Joanne, Joanne, before you go, can I just make a comment?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is material to the issue.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a material comment on this. When the Mayor set the ambition for the Metropolitan Police Service to cut crime, boost confidence and reduce costs, the advice we were getting from people who had been the architects of police reform was just to focus on cutting crime. The Mayor is absolutely right to set out that ambition of not only cutting crime, although that is incredibly important for London, but also see this boost in confidence. The real challenge for the Metropolitan Police Service is how you take that idea, that ambition for the police to be the most respected, most loved police force in the country, how you operationalise confidence and we know that there are some key drivers. You know that if we operationalise confidence then you are going to have to think about community engagement, because it is quite clear that those local forces that engage with their communities see relatively higher levels of confidence. For instance, we have examined how in Waltham Forest they have a very high level of public confidence, exceptionally good levels of engagement. We see other areas where engagement seems relatively low. That is already an issue that local forces need to think about. Secondly, we know that how you treat the public is incredibly important, so this whole issue of fair treatment and the Commissioner has done a fantastic job in improving how the Metropolitan Police Service goes about doing stop and search, not to say there is more to be done. But equally we also know, because we see high levels of public confidence in certain parts of London, that visibility and availability of

police officers is very important as is policing with purpose. Not in areas of no crime or relatively low crime, but in areas where you see higher crime, so that we can get those officers at the times of the days and the parts of the capital to stop criminals from committing crime. That is the big lesson when you police global cities.

So, operationalising confidence is the challenge and we are not necessarily there yet. The Commissioner may obviously want to talk about this, but it is absolutely the right ambition for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I do not think anyone would disagree with you. I think whether it is happening in practice, though, is the issue. Caroline [Pidgeon] wants to ask some questions about visibility under the policing model.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Mr Mayor, perhaps you would like to answer this issue that the evidence we are hearing on the ground – sergeants very stretched and fire-fighting – that the reassurance work going into some of these community meetings just is not happening. Maybe it is because you are not fully up to strength yet but what is the issue there? What are you asking the Metropolitan Police Service to do on that?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think it would be rash to generalise about one ward in Joanne's constituency.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It was actually an issue that was raised in the Metropolitan Police Service's internal briefing they provided us with on the MOPAC road shows – visibility, attendance at meetings and other major issues.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I perfectly accept that visibility is always going to be a major issue. It is one of the reasons why I wanted to keep police numbers high in London and we work very hard to achieve that. I think we have got more police constables now, 26,000, than ever in the history of the Metropolitan Police Service. The numbers have never been as high as 26,000. I wanted to see numbers higher and capable of being deployed on the streets. Now, it may be that there are patches where the visibility is not high enough, and Joanne has mentioned one, and it may be that there are operational solutions to that. I know that the Commissioner is certainly working on that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. I am going to come to the Commissioner in a minute, but one more question for you. One of your key policies around this change and supporting this local policing model was that when front counters closed, the alternative would be even better and people would have more access. However, we have seen in your initial analysis that the contact points are getting fewer than two visitors a week. The hours of them are quite ridiculous, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7.00pm and 8.00pm and Saturdays between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Many of the venues are not fully accessible. Eighteen contact points are inaccessible to wheelchairs. Three have no accessibility feature at all. Are you going to have to rethink your policy at these contact points and look at other arrangements; to allow members of the public to be able to have face-to-face contact with the police in, perhaps, more suitable accessible locations?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Don't forget the first point I made to Joanne which is that the pledge from the police to everybody is that they will come to us, they will be there.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: But if people do not want the police turning up at their door and there may well be people who do not want that and want to go to a secure place to have that conversation, how --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is obviously possible to arrange a place to meet but on the contact points, it is absolutely true that they are not so far being particularly well used; and I think there may be a case for greater publicity of some of these contact points. But it also, I think, possibly reflects the changes in the way policing is done and the interactions people want with the police. When you look at the volume of rendezvous at the contact points, it is not that much less than they were at the police stations as far as I can --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service):

Something which, I think, Caroline knows about is the 24-hour police station opening in every one of the boroughs, so there is a place to go to. I accept that it is not there for everybody all the time and it may not be easy to get to for some people. Then we have got the contact points where people can make it at hopefully reasonable times, but there is a good point which is about do people know where they are and when they are open. That is something we are going to have to look at. You made the point about accessibility. I am sure that is something we will review, because some of them will have gone in fairly quickly to make sure we got something, as we had to sell the estate and make sure that we moved on.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It may be that you will change some of these or rethink them. It is just a question of wording.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): As far as I am aware, the most successful ones, or the ones where the greatest usage is, are at supermarkets; places with a high footfall.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I went to a contact point in Wilton Road, the Sainsbury's in Wilton Road. It is how you measure contact. They had a stack of leaflets on crime prevention advice, on how to avoid being burgled, some other issues around personal safety, such as not having your mobile stolen; and they literally had to go back to the station to get more leaflets. They were absolutely swamped with people taking leaflets. It is fair to say, if you talk about customer contact being the reporting of crime or anti-social behaviour, then that is relatively low. However we know the general trends that the volume of people reporting crime at a desk, even at a police station, has halved since 2006/2007. In fact we are seeing technology move on and there are already trials on the streets of London where police officers can record crime, so the bobbies themselves can do that rather than having to go back to the police station. The world is changing and moving on. Everybody is finding different ways of having that very critical contact with the Metropolitan Police Service.

I think we just need to move our paradigm beyond the Victorian idea of everything has to go through a front counter; whether you are a member of the public, whether you are someone on

bail or whether you are, in fact, someone who is just trying to hand in some lost property. I think we can have a much wider and better vision of how you can have contact between the first public service and members of the London public. It is fair to say, though, we can do a lot better with regard to the contact points and we always planned, as indeed the Commissioner planned, a full review of the local policing model, and a full review of contact points. That, indeed, is what is going to be carried out.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I think that will be useful because what you are describing sounds more like a road show giving out information which I am not knocking at all, I think that is a very useful role. However, if it is supposed to be somewhere somebody can go if they have an issue and want to have that face-to-face time with an officer, the supermarket where lots of people are, may not be the most suitable location. So, your review will be useful to look at. Perhaps, also Sir Bernard, you could send us details of the footfall for police stations over this time as well, because you have got fewer that open the front counter and it will be useful where there are actually people who want to get that face-to-face going there; rather than perhaps these contact points.

Can I follow up then with you, Sir Bernard? We have seen the evaluation. There are some real issues coming out in here, some teething problems if you like. Contact points are one of them. You have had issues around vacancy rates in the safer neighbourhood teams, problems with the shift pattern and concerns about that from the police. There has also been an issue about the changing role for safer neighbourhood teams and the reassurance which I am concerned has partly been lost to investigation. There have been issues with the work flow for investigations. I think the review says, particularly, because some of the teams do not have the investigation skills. They are not fully up to speed yet. What are you doing and how are you prioritising addressing some of these real concerns?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): First of all, I will just say something about some of the structural things which I deal with and explain what we are doing in terms of reviewing; because we always said we would review. I think the good news is that we have moved a significant number of officers, as the Mayor said. By the time we get back to 32,000 officers, which it should be quite shortly, then we will have shifted 2,600 into neighbourhoods, which I think is a great achievement. But what I do acknowledge is that some of the changes have not gone as smoothly as they could, and there are things to do. We have just got back to 31,000 officers, so that has meant over the last four months we have recruited about 1,000. So they have arrived, but of course they arrive needing training. They arrive not really knowing the organisation and those first set of probationers go straight into the neighbourhoods. So, we have had this thing in place for well over a year, but it has not had all the people in it that it needed to. The new people have arrived and they arrive needing some training and they have got to skill up. So, that is happening around us.

There have been some issues around shifts and they have had two elements, I believe. One is around our Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers. We think we have resolved that one by tweaking the shift system, but the shift system itself for the neighbourhood officers is not yet resolved. There are still discussions going on about that.

There is a fundamental problem which is that the public wants us to be here when they want us and there are officers who would quite enjoy being at home when they want to be. So, we are asking them to deploy anti-social hours. The public would say, "Isn't that what we pay them for?" Of course, as an employer, we have also got to try and get that balance right. So, that is the sort of negotiation we are having with our officers. In terms of skilling, I take the point to some level, but they are police officers. I presume they have been there for a while and they should be able to investigate crime. So, I am not sure I fully accept that argument.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It is in your review.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I hear what they say. I am not sure I agree. But I think in terms of new officers, clearly there is an issue there that we are going to resolve. In terms of how we are taking that forward, you know we have got a new Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing, Helen King. Helen has been there six weeks so of course she has already changed everything! She hasn't but she has to think about what we might do. One of her big tasks is to review the local policing model. Phase I of that review will be complete by the end of July and we intend to implement by October. The second phase should be complete in terms of assessment, by the end of October with a final implementation by December; and that is most likely to be the shift changes, because that needs negotiation and we cannot just implement without talking to our staff.

In terms of that first assessment, by the end of July I think we will have a very clear statement about what the structure of the neighbourhoods are and it may change. So, as you know, there was a big debate at the beginning. You had one sergeant, two Police Constables (PCs), three Community Support Officers (CSOs). That went to one and one dedicated but there were more people who worked in the neighbourhood above, if you like, the ward. That has helped to some extent but there is some evidence it has led to diffusion of what they are doing. For me, there has to be more dedication of those neighbourhood officers to the wards, with some deployment into the neighbourhoods, and I think the balance has gone the wrong way. I am not going to impose my solution for Helen. She is going to have to work on it and have a look at it herself. We should be able to bring back at the end of July what that new model will look like, and I think it would meet many of the concerns and criticisms that have been expressed about the first model. The thing we should just keep in mind is it is a lot more officers doing policing in the neighbourhoods and that is a good thing. How they work is clearly yet to be concluded.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You might be looking to shift how many officers are dedicated towards rather than in the general neighbourhood pool.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not think we can move any more into the neighbourhoods at this stage. I would like to see and talk to the Mayor and we would like to see more officers dedicated to schools, for example. I would love to see a police officer in every secondary school and at the moment it is about 10% of our schools.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We used to have that though.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is quite a large number and I am not sure I can find it from our existing resources, but there is an opportunity for the future. They are, for me, part of the neighbourhood model.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I think, regarding the schools issue, we would perhaps like some information on that because we thought they were in every school in London.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They never have been. They were in -- I may be wrong about this, I will check the facts, but I think they are in about 116 of the secondary schools and I think, this is from memory, there are around 1,600 secondary schools in London, so it is about 10% something of that order. That is the nature of the gap. Of course, not all schools want them, I realise that. My ambition would be to try and get that link. Now, I see that as a good development of the neighbourhood model but I cannot see an easy way to get more, to move people from the jobs they are doing at the minute; but perhaps we can keep that in mind.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Will the public be able to feed in to this? Obviously we all get quite a lot of case work from different parts of London, issues I have raised- some in public question times - with you before. How will they be able to have a say on how it is really working on the ground?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The second thing, I will just outline what the Metropolitan Police Service is doing to review its operations. Equally, the Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime, I know, is carrying out some work at the same time with the public feedback he has received as a result of his road shows; and the information he gets, and I am sure, building on whatever information you have got, you will have what the elected politicians would like to see in our new model. So, any information that people have we would like to fit in, because we would like to get to an agreed model. I think it is a positive way forward but clearly we need to tweak it.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You are not going to have an open consultation as such. It is just --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We are not. I am not against it in principle. As you know, the only problem is they can be very long processes and it can be really difficult to engage with so many people. If you can find an efficient way of doing it, of course we would like to feed that in. To be fair, Caroline, what you said here a number of times and what a lot of people have told us, we know where the problems are. I am not sure consultation will fully get us more information. The people who often work with the police think that they do not come to their meetings as much. I think there is a way to remedy that without losing the enforcement side. You juxtapose reassurance and enforcement as though they were two alternatives. For me, you reassure people by doing your job and the job is to stop crime, arrest offenders and help victims. It is not to attend meetings, although of course that is part of what they have to do. So, for me that has been a philosophical shift, which has led to some tensions, but it is essential.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Finally, obviously you have been talking about the increase in officers. I am wondering with this increase in officers and this shift, if that going to have an impact for roles and investigations that are more specialist and perhaps less visible to the public; whether it is fraud prevention or child protection. Is there going to be an impact on those services?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No in short. The way we found these officers, obviously we have not got new people and we had to move them around. So, one of the ways, for example, we had a lot of officers who work in our duties section, so a lot of those have been moved out. We had a lot of specialism in the general CID in our police stations and I do not think that could be justified. Of course, as soon as you specialise, you have to have a critical mass of officers to cover the 24 hours. So, we have had less specialisation that has allowed us to move officers. We have also moved officers out of the intelligence side and more into the doing side. So, that is where that extra bulk of officers have arrived from.

In terms of the future, if you looked at child protection, for example, and if you looked at sexual offence investigations, we know that this year we have seen a large increase in that reporting. A lot of it is historical, still needs investigating and actually is harder to investigate than current jobs. So, we have already started moving officers from specialist crime into sexual offence investigation. We are looking at child protection, but that does not seem to see the same rise in demand which is always, as you know, a concern about what we do not know. At the moment we have not seen the same recorded increase in child protection issues. In terms of sexual offences we have, but the Specialist Crime and Operations (SC&O) side are expected to sort that out themselves and not ask territorial policing to backfill for them.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It will not have an impact on territorial.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If they have to come and make the argument that we should, of course we will listen, but at the moment they have not.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have already moved quite a lot of officers to facilitate some of this. One of the benefits we have at the moment is, we have got a lower murder rate. Over the last three years we have seen reduction overall, about 25% less murders, a third less young people murders over the last three years compared to the previous three and yet; we look at homicide teams who are still running at the levels that were set five to ten years ago. They still do lots more work than just murder investigations, there are other things that they pick up such as medical cases and various other things. But we did think that if we wanted to deploy officers to gangs or sexual offences, there was some opportunity for SC&O to re-deploy and that is what we have done.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): One obvious reflection, Caroline, is the huge pressure on the Metropolitan Police Service from these, effectively, national investigations that the

Metropolitan Police Service is asked to conduct like Yewtree or Weeting, which take up a huge amount of resource. It is very important to bear that in mind. In addition to what I think is an excellent job they are doing in fighting crime in London, they are also responsible for massive investigations of national concern.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Did you just reflect on the number of officers that are being squeezed out of the back and middle office by some of the things the Commissioner alluded to? I was at a budget meeting reviewing specialist crime and those changes to intelligence tasking, literally means that they can re-deploy around 600 officers out of the back and middle office and into the front line; whether it is specialist policing or whether it is policing neighbourhoods. I think that is a creditable achievement. There is more obviously to be done, but it is definitely moving in the right way.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You have touched on it with me a number of times over the last 12 months; and I know Mr Biggs, when I appeared before you in the budgetary role after Christmas, we will look at it again. So, the Operational Policing Model (OPM) figures, you have always been quite critical that that has not moved and the Metropolitan Police Service has been quite static. You are going to see quite a lot of movement. So, this work has not just happened and quite rightly so. Where have these officers come from? There has been a huge change programme and some of it is not popular. Dragging people out of back and middle office does not make you particularly popular but it is the right thing to do; and you will see those figures have started to move much more than they have moved before. So, I think there are some real successes underneath it.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. Just for clarity, Commissioner, with the review that is taking place that Helen King is doing, is it looking likely then that some wards may get more dedicated officers returned to them?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I just want to be clear that I do not mislead, because it is the sort of explanation that can make it more confusing rather than less, so I will do my best to avoid that. If a neighbourhood is made up of five wards and if each of the wards has one plus one, a PC plus a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and above them, if you like, in the neighbourhood there are a further 30 officers, for the sake of argument, it seems to me that the total, therefore, is 35 police officers. It will remain 35 but it is entirely possible for the 30 above to be re-dedicated to the wards and, from time to time, move across the neighbourhoods. I think what has happened is they have been moving a lot across the neighbourhoods --

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): -- and not as often dedicated to the wards. It is that balance I am trying to strike so that, therefore, the wards would know their officers, accept that they will move from time to time but only within the neighbourhood and the final part, which has not helped us in the model -- one of the very good things about the model -- it was not my idea, it is something that Simon Byrne brought and I thought it was a good idea -- was that in the neighbourhood you have a squad,

for the sake of argument, with a support group within the neighbourhood and when aid comes as a request from Westminster, which sadly it does a lot, so today there will be a lot of aid in Westminster because of the protests that will be there -- is that that would be the first call for that aid. Sadly, what is happening at the moment is it is coming from response, it is coming from neighbourhoods. So the idea is to have a first call and the dedicated officers would not be withdrawn as often.

I think we need a better response to aid generally and it is one of the things that is driving me crackers at the moment, because it is a random allocation of the aid and I think there is a better way of doing it. We have done it the way we have done it for 100-odd years. We have to find a better way. There is a way but when I have done the work on that, I will bring it back to you.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That is very positive. It is something this Committee warned against, the depletion of our dedicated officers and that is the main complaint I get. Secondly, you are going to have results from your review in July. Can I just have an assurance from you that you will write to this Committee and let us know what the results are and what changes are taking place?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Of course.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That will be very helpful.

Roger Evans AM: Thank you. Do you recall, Stephen, when you did the MOPAC road show in Havering at the start of this year?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I could not possibly forget.

Roger Evans AM: Then you will remember, of course, a theme that came out of that, which is common to other parts of outer London, is that while crime is going down, confidence in those places is not improving.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Roger Evans AM: At the time you recognised that as a problem.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Roger Evans AM: Have you actually in the time since then considered how we might resolve it?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Clearly we want to make sure that the people on the ground that are the police officers, the neighbourhood inspectors, and the borough commanders begin to think about how they might drive that themselves. It is not going to be driven from City Hall, nor do I think it is necessarily going to be delivered from Scotland Yard. Some of the things I think are very useful are the analytics that compare similar

neighbourhoods. So, although Havering is a very unique place, I am sure you will agree, there are similar neighbourhoods potentially in other parts of London that you can provide a point of comparison.

We continue to look at the drivers of confidence. There seems to be a very strong correlation with relatively low areas of confidence in London, including Havering, and levels of community engagement, for instance. We continue to look at some of the other drivers around visibility and availability of officers. I think it is looking at that and ensuring it is not just the politicians that look at that and consider why there are these differences. Although we continue to look at the London-wide figure, which varies if you look at the public attitude survey and varies if you look at the crime survey for England and Wales, it is still in the 60s; however it is different, actually the borough level figures and the neighbourhood figures vary even more markedly. It is operationalising that and getting the people who are leading the efforts on the ground, to focus not just on cutting crime but also on boosting public confidence.

Roger Evans AM: OK. I am quite interested in unpacking these figures around attendance at the contact points, because they are very low, as colleagues have said. Have you done any work to try to understand what people are doing instead? Is there an increase of people attending the 24-hour desks or is it coming through the new technology instead?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We have seen a channel shift. By and large, particularly with the offer from the Commissioner, that victims of crime will get a visit --

Roger Evans AM: Yes, but --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- but there is a channel shift, so people are not --

Roger Evans AM: Wait a minute. Those people will have had to have reported the crime first because the police are not clairvoyant.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Sure.

Roger Evans AM: What I am talking about here was really the initial contact. Are people still going to the police station or are they reporting crime in other ways?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The extraordinary thing about this business of the Metropolitan Police Service is that they receive 5.25 million calls a year from people asking for help, very often wanting to report. It may be a crime-related incident but it might be reporting a crime. Then officers come, and largely that is the choice. There are also web opportunities now. There is a digital way of accessing the police service. I have just mentioned to you that police officers now are trialling an approach to being able to fill out crime reports on the beat. So, we are moving to an era. We have seen eras of policing, haven't we. We have seen the Dixons with the whistle, small beats, little truncheon walking around and that era of Whitehall one two, one two. We then moved to the Robocop era where

you had a car and a radio and almost a retreat away from neighbourhood policing. We are entering a new era with technology of the digital Dixon. That is why --

Roger Evans AM: Digital Dixon?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, the digital Dixon. The digital Dixon is what this Mayor is bringing to London which I think is absolutely the right thing. This Commissioner, with its thousands of extra officers into neighbourhoods, is heralding an era of the digital Dixon. We are responding to your problem.

Roger Evans AM: I think that is a great strap line but you have talked about maybe reviewing where the contact points are if you find they are not being used.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think we do need to review them. We are reviewing them.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is very important. I think the phrase, "Digital Dixon" is very handy but it should be stressed that there are many, many physical manifestations of Dixon too.

Roger Evans AM: Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): A record 26,000 number of PCs and we had a very useful discussion about the vagaries of the policing model. I hope there was a bit more clarity, Joanne, about that. On your basic question about where are the punters going now, are they going back to the 24-hour police stations, I think what the Commissioner said to Caroline was we would try to get you some figures in if that is the case. I do not have any personal evidence.

Roger Evans AM: That would tell us something important, would it not? If they were going to the 24-hour desks it might tell us that the critics were right. If they are using other methods of contact now, it might actually back up the approach you have chosen to use.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): In those 24-hour police stations, my understanding is that one crime overnight is recorded. Is that right?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, very low numbers. What we can do is provide some information like people producing documents and people responding to bail. What we do not tend to do is keep a list of everybody who walks into the building. They might just pop in for a piece of advice or just to chat to somebody. I am sure we can provide whatever information we have, to see what channels have changed if they have.

Roger Evans AM: You have a huge amount of control over that element of contact, do you not, because you write to people and say to them to produce their documents at such and such a place. They are not making a choice about where they go.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They have a limited choice. It is usually an offer made on the street. We do not write to them. It is usually if they do not have documents when we have stopped them, so they have the opportunity to produce their documents; although that is reduced over the years because we can do a lot of checking online now. However, there are reasons why people need to come to the station and those are the things we record best, you know, people with a shotgun licence or whatever it is that they need to come into a police station for; we will keep good records of that. It would not be comprehensive, but I think we can give an account of what it is.

Roger Evans AM: You said that the contact points which are getting the largest amount of contact from people are the ones which are in supermarkets, places where people can go. Do you think there is an opportunity to use other busy places for contact points, Tube stations, for example?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, I think so. I think there are two reasons people go to these places, as Stephen indicated earlier. Sometimes they go for general advice which might be met by a leaflet or a piece of information or, often, people come just to get a message to an officer. You would think they may call, but sometimes they will call in. Other times they will go because they need some private advice. That can be quite difficult because if they want to talk about a sensitive issue, they may not want to talk about it in the public arena. That has been a problem in our police stations as long as I have been in the job sadly. If you walk into a police station and you are announcing what you are doing and somebody might ask why you were in the station, when you arrive in there, you do not know who is sitting on the seats who may have a different motivation for being there. We have always tried to manage that but I accept that this is a change we have got to be careful about.

However, on the whole, and I take Caroline's point that you may not want the police coming to your home if we say we will come but, we have managed that either by, as the Mayor said, visiting them somewhere else; or we can go in plain clothes and people will say we all know the police when we see them. However, some of them I see are so scruffy that I worry about whether they are police officers.

Roger Evans AM: Oh dear.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Too late now.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think they look very smart.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): But the ones who are trying not to be recognised seem to achieve it quite well, certainly so far as I can see anyway.

Len Duvall AM: Chair, thank you very much. I want to concentrate on the briefing note that you have supplied us on the review of neighbourhood policing. I am quite surprised Commissioner in the sense that in some local policing measures, we have not really settled down, and they have been less than a year in some cases I have heard, and that we are already starting the review. I am even more surprised by some of the terminology and the changes and the confusions that may arise. I have a whole list of questions Chair, arising from the report, which I might end up writing to you with. I think we have now heard about the 2,600 officers that you mentioned earlier on. I think you must now be in a position to tell us where they have come from and where they have been re-deployed to. So, for starters, if we could have a look at that: my understanding of a safer neighbourhood team is the new model; one police officer, one PCSO, maybe with a supervising sergeant working in a team in an area you call quadrants. You are now calling them neighbourhoods. I think you might want to get this language right in terms of the public understanding what they get and what they do not get. Now, on CID, in terms of numbers allocated to neighbourhood or quadrants -- shall we call them areas because I understand that? I do not understand quadrants.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not use quadrants at all, Len.

Len Duvall AM: I understand quadrants used to be four but in some boroughs there are only three quadrants, three areas.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It would not be a quadrant then, would it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have not heard of quadrants but anyway, OK.

Len Duvall AM: It does exist in your documents produced by the MPS, I have seen it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Right.

Len Duvall AM: I have challenged them. It is quite funny, do you know what I mean, in that sense. I do dine out on that. But let's call them areas or a more familiar term to you, and I have raised this before, sectors. Let's start shall we. In terms of sectors and who is in the sector and who is not in the sector, for clarity, are the CID teams included in your sector teams or neighbourhood teams?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No.

Len Duvall AM: They are not. So, they are separate because originally in the original local policing model, it talked about being allocated as part of that visible policing.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): My short answer of no answered the question. What you will find, particularly in some boroughs where

they will dedicate -- I say dedicate -- we have said to DCs you are dedicated -- not dedicated but that is your ward or your neighbourhood or quadrant or whatever we are going to call it.

Len Duvall AM: OK.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They are not working there all the time and that is their only job.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you. Emergency response and then patrol teams which you call ERPTs, which I can only believe to be Emergency Response Patrol Teams; is that true?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: OK. These patrol teams are in each of the sectors or is there only one patrol team or a number of patrol teams but do they patrol only within their sectors?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No.

Len Duvall AM: They do not. They patrol across the borough.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Across the borough.

Len Duvall AM: Are those patrol teams part of the neighbourhood teams then?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Not directly, no.

Len Duvall AM: So, they are entering above?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Enter above --

Len Duvall AM: Over and above this figure that you quote that are in neighbourhood services, I think you have got the figure in here.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Four and a half thousand. You described the services and it goes back to the perennial debate that we have had here, certainly since I have been here, over what is in a borough and what is not in a borough. You have described the safer neighbourhood teams. You have described the criminal investigation. Emergency response and patrol is across the borough. There might be more than one patrol base. That is an operational decision based on the geography of the borough. There is a borough tasking team and there is a Grip and Pace centre. That is the borough services. That is what is at borough levels.

Len Duvall AM: So, the 4,000 officers across London that are identified.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Four and a half thousand.

Len Duvall AM: Four and a half thousand. Are they then the --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Ones and ones.

Len Duvall AM: Ones and ones and the sergeants and the inspector.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The team and the inspector.

Len Duvall AM: And that is it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I think, as of Friday, because we were 71 short on those, so of the 4,500 we had -- which in our turnover of 1,600 a year is pretty good going.

Len Duvall AM: The vacancy rate for the year that is quoted in the briefing document of 6%, is that vacancy rate across London still the same?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is for those borough services. So, in different parts of the Metropolitan Police Service throughout the year it has been different and basically on a risk basis. So, we have prioritised, as we said we would in the London Policing Model (LPM), getting people into neighbourhoods and getting people into boroughs. So, all those resources are coming up, you did a pass out parade recently, I have done one and there has been about 1,200 in the last two months come in. The range of people coming in, they have been prioritised into boroughs. So, there are parts of the organisation, I think, that are at 9%, 10% in terms of that, but not in the boroughs.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Could I just add one quick thing, two quick things, one just on that 6%, that is broadly what the Metropolitan Police Service has been short. So, we should have 32,000, we run about 30,000.

Len Duvall AM: Should be lower, shouldn't it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): What should be lower?

Len Duvall AM: The vacancy rate across the Metropolitan Police Service should be lower, once you have started this recruitment.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It will be but I am just observing that the 6% is the 6% for the force of which Temporary Police Officers

(TPOs) have taken their share, and also homicide are, and so is counter-terrorism and safe transport; so just broadly that.

Just one thing you said right at the beginning I thought was important. I take the point that you might say this is too quick to do a review. Is one year long enough? Well, we get caught both ways. Caroline and others have been saying they do not like what they see. If we ignore that, we are accused of not listening to feedback and if we change it, we are accused of inconsistency. So, striking that balance is difficult but I think a year is not a bad time to at least take breath.

Len Duvall AM: I think trying to put things right that have gone wrong is not a bad thing to do and reviews are important.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You put it in a different way.

Len Duvall AM: That is right. So we can have that debate, isn't it? Do you know what I mean? I think there have been mistakes made and I think there have been some good things in learning lessons. Whether it is a year or two years --

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have re-profiled the entire organisation as part of the change, so if we have not made some mistakes along the way, I will be flabbergasted.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The risk of standing still is always significant.

Len Duvall AM: Can I just go back again on the safer neighbourhood teams to something you said, Commissioner, in answer to the aid issue. The safer neighbourhood teams, we were told the one officer and the one PCSO within the area and the sector, and obviously tasked to do crime but almost dedicated there, having appreciated that they were taken off on aid, why would that be the case or have I misunderstood what you said?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Just to be clear on that, what I was saying was that the ones who were in the sector but not dedicated to wards may be removed for aid.

Len Duvall AM: Who are these people that are in the sector, not dedicated to wards, because that is what I am trying to get to grips with. I do not understand who they are. What sort of teams are they and are they part of the 4,000 then?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: So they are. If I start breaking down the 4,000, I have got one officer, one safe neighbourhood team (SNT), a couple of sergeants in my borough, an inspector and I have got a group of other people that are attached to that sector.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I missed the first --

Len Duvall AM: Who are they?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You have got a ward. It has got one PC, one PCSO. They should not be abstracted for the aid commitment.

Len Duvall AM: A couple of sergeants.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): A collection of wards, whatever you call it, and let's for the sake of it call it a neighbourhood, a collection of wards and a neighbourhood then has additional resources above it. They vary from about 12 to 24.

Len Duvall AM: Right.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They will work on priority-based issues in those wards and areas. The 200,000 extra appointments, the 64% increase in appointments to crime and crime victims, they will be doing some of that work. You have also then got the emergency response and patrol team. Why it is also called patrol team as well as response is we are really, really clear, they do not just do response, otherwise you end up with a form of fire brigade policing where people sit there and wait for the next call. They are patrol.

Len Duvall AM: Presumably they liaise with the sectors.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They work with the neighbourhoods, they work with the SNTs, they work with the CID in the way they always have done under the old model and under this model.

Len Duvall AM: Fine, OK, if I can just quickly move on. A couple of issues just for clarity: on the shift pattern issue, there have always been problems with shift patterns. I thought they were solved. I thought some of the shift pattern issues were not to do with the local policing. It was about boroughs being consistent across London on shift patterns and every borough was going to operate in the same way. Is that not the case?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No.

Len Duvall AM: So, what --

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They do broad --

Len Duvall AM: This is those who work extra longer hours to get extra time, rest time off before they come back.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No.

Len Duvall AM: That has gone. We have moved off from that. What was this then?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The problem, as it is manifesting at the moment, as the Commissioner described it, is that challenge between the reality, the work demands are taking you into 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock in the morning; and in some London boroughs, as you well know, anyone who does not live in that borough, finishing at 3 o'clock in the morning, in terms of real practical things, means they cannot get home unless they have their own transport.

Len Duvall AM: This is what the Federation said, you have sleeping on the streets.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have heard those stories as well, but certainly sleeping in police stations and all those things that we do not want, but it is a really difficult balance because the public want you. You remember, I think, it was three or four months ago, you asked me about morale. Morale for operational officers driving it is they always know when they get a duty change, they are going to move from what they thought was a day turn onto a late or an evening. When that happens to you all the time, that has an impact, but that is the reality of our service the demand has moved to that tail end of the day.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Probably just to add this one thing about the shifts, is that the shifts probably have two big drivers for the changes. One is the point we have already made which is to meet the demand, which was late at night and going into the early hours of the morning. London never really goes to sleep, so we needed to keep officers there. It is not always popular. The second thing is, and we found this in 2011, you have got to have enough officers on if someone says they need help in an adjacent borough or nearby. When the button was pushed in 2011, not enough turned up. So you have got two demands really to get the right number of officers at any one time. One, for every call that comes in, can you meet that call. From time to time, if there is a pub fight that could turn into something else, you have got to turn up with enough resources and you have got to have resilience. So, we try to get the shifts pitched to that. For the officers, it is a change and essentially a lot of it is anti-social hours. Then a final point that Craig brings out is that many of our people live outside London and have to travel a distance. If the transport stops they cannot make it. They cannot bring a car in, so it causes a tension. We realise that and we are doing our best to resolve it but it is not straightforward.

Len Duvall AM: I just have two more questions very quickly, Chair. Of the 1,400 that you are taking back from the boroughs across London back to the centre, presumably there has been some work done on whether they could have been re-deployed back into neighbourhood services..

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

Len Duvall AM: There has.

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

Len Duvall AM: So, these 1,400 will not feature. We will see a reduction in these figures that you have got to borough services.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If there is a perennial debate, the most obvious one on there is custody. We went through a debate earlier on this year around do you manage custody 32 ways across London, 32 different ways of doing it, 32 staffing models? The reality is at a point in time that was probably affordable. Whether it was efficient is a separate debate. It is not affordable now. The other driver that we have not touched under this, of course, is £600 million is coming out across the piece here. So, that is why we have had the debate about where services sit. I know I am unpopular when I say this all the time, but that is why this whole notion of borough numbers, that is a perennial hang up and is a complete red herring.

Len Duvall AM: It is not a complete red herring. What we are trying to do as a Committee is get transparency on what we think you do, along with MOPAC, and that is why we are exploring some of these issues. We think people should know what is the level of policing and I think it is about an honest approach with the financial resources you have got with the resources you are given. It is very hard to get to the bottom of the story. That is why I have asked these questions.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): But I think it goes to that fundamental point that we keep going back to. That is why I thought your first questions around what are those services that sit in a borough and neighbourhood are absolutely the rights ones. These, to some extent, and this is why this is written in this way -- it is exactly the same with the roads policing and those sorts of things. You can make these borough numbers move by moving services. We have come to a level of transparency now that you have probably never seen before.

Len Duvall AM: That is good. My last question, I suppose, on the basis that you have got a new base line of 2011, in terms of where history begins.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, no.

Len Duvall AM: That is according to this document. That is what you stated in 2011. Is there a new definition of visibility in the last two years? Have you shifted from your original concept of what you thought visibility was?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, we still use the numbers we reported since 2006/2005, both the way the Home Office assess it as in front line, visible. Those have not changed.

Len Duvall AM: Good. I will be writing to you. I have got at least another 20-odd questions.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think those are all very sensible questions and it is very important the Mayor's office plays its part in ensuring that there is transparency around changes in numbers, according to the numbers we publish in the Police and Crime Plan. So, yes, we have a 2011 base line for both borough totals and also for the police officers in neighbourhoods, even though there are changes around how those are deployed within individual wards. I think we need to recognise that when there are changes - I have certainly done 16 borough visits - to the first tranche of the LPM, boroughs including Havering where we had a very clear reconciliation of the changes of those functions like intelligence, tasking, custody that had been centralised but still had a service that they delivered to boroughs. So, we have been very clear about trying to explain to the public the way the Metropolitan Police Service are organising themselves; importantly, so that more police officers are getting closer to the front line to serve the public.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I note that one of the issues out of the road show with key concerns about attendees was your base line. It is the first bullet point in this document. People are concerned about LPM baseline and perception that police officer numbers had fallen. I think it is important to explain constantly. John [Biggs] wants a quick question.

John Biggs AM: Apparently it is a quick question.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It is.

John Biggs AM: It is about morale and motivation. It may even be too quick for the Chair to tolerate but like any organisation, the police officers on the ground do not really like change although they might embrace it in time. We all meet operational front line officers who complain about lack of opportunities for career advancement and for shift payments. Obviously you are the leader, Sir Bernard, of the police service. What are you doing to ensure that the changes push through quickly enough and comprehensively enough that people will feel a sense of direction and motivation?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I believe we are having a great deal of success. I have been in the job long enough, and you will have, John, talked to officers long enough to know that they can never quite articulate a time when morale was brilliant.

John Biggs AM: Yes.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is the nature of our culture, I am afraid. It is with quite a challenging group. We can be sceptical or cynical. There are other groups who are similar, journalists dare I say it. We are, by nature, probably quite sceptical of anything that is change and we are probably a body of people who preserve the status quo. We are here to protect the rule of law which I think is in our nature. I think generally where we are going is a good direction, supported by our staff and our leaders.

I have done an awful lot to try to bring them along with us and to involve them in it. So, for example, we have just concluded over the last three weeks 18 sessions in groups of 500 of 8,000 of our leaders, sergeants, inspectors, where I have been there every day and we have provided various, we think -- partly just explain the plan but try to give them some motivational ideas. We have had a paralympian there. We have had a chap called Daniel Snell who has helped about 1,000 young -- it happens to be young black kids generally who look like they are going nowhere and has turned their lives round.

So, to try to get them, to encourage them to think that even when it is challenging in our job and even when we have got challenging circumstances, which money causes us to have, that there may be better ways forward that are positive and change is not always negative. Then thirdly give them some information about how we all communicate. We all communicate in different ways. I think I am being clear to you now but you may not be hearing things in the way that I expect. So, giving them that sort of information, that is the second session we have had in about 18 months. The last time it was 10,000 people in groups of 500 for 21 days. So, one, I have met them. Two, we have said a lot about what we are doing and, three, we have given some tools to help them move forward.

For the last three days, and the last one is tomorrow, we are having 1,000 of our leaders together, these are chief inspectors and above. We happen to be using Highbury, the first one was Stamford Bridge. They are in groups of about 150 to 200 at a time, and this is really to start talking about not only the change process, but also about some of our ethical dilemmas; and encourage them to think, that as a profession, we do have dilemmas. For example, one dilemma is when your boss tells you that we ought to change a plan, if you do not agree with it, how do you deal with that. When you talk to your own staff, do you support the company policy, if you like, or do you say, "No, my interests are better and I know best" and, therefore, probably dilute the effect of that strategy.

So, we have done a lot to try to bring all those people on board and that group we have got together three times over the last nine months. Then every 28 days, I get together a group of over 100 leaders, all the borough commanders and department heads, to go through the same sort of thing.

Finally, if you do not mind -- I know it was a short question and mine is probably a long answer -- the final point is just the objective information; such a sour sickness records and people wanting to leave. Our sickness records remain very low compared to almost every other police force in the country. Our turnover is around 5%. In London, that is unheard of in terms of an employer. I think actually it could healthily be a little higher but you cannot say to a group of people who think it is such a bad organisation that they are wanting to leave. Now, we have lost some people. I say lost, I mean 3,500 people will, from our police staff, go and work somewhere else. They will lose their job. I accept that entirely.

However, on the whole, we have done a lot to help them through that change process and we have got some evidence it is working.

John Biggs AM: If I can come back very briefly, I do sense, totally unscientifically, that there is grumpiness in the ranks about change, and when will things settle down and opportunities arise again. I suspect if the police had a right to strike they might be out today, not that I support the right to strike for police, because their pay has been pretty well frozen as well. An example of a problem I came across was the number of officers willing to go forward for public order training, where you get a lot of stress and strain, but for very little additional motivational reward of any kind. Would you agree that there are issues like that which need to be tweaked?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I agree. I think, first of all, in terms of career development, for example, there has been a bit of blight; so for about 18 months, because we have been taking the £600 million and trying to get the plan, we cannot promote people to jobs we cannot pay. We also are having less managers, so that means we are having to slim down. However, over the last few months, we have opened up the door again for sergeants, inspectors, superintendents and chief superintendents to start coming through; and they are coming through in quite large numbers. However, for a year, we have had some difficulties. We have always been clear that we would tell them as soon as we knew, and I think they have accepted that.

In terms of the particular point you raised around public order training, it has been a constant challenge for the police. Those who will put themselves forward get no better reward for going through the training or the disruption that is brought when we want them on aid. Now, one of the Winsor [Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary] reforms proposed was that there would be an allowance but that, I do not think, has been agreed. So, I think that would be a helpful thing should it ever be agreed, but at the moment we have not got that opportunity to pay. We rely on their goodwill to do the things I have described.

John Biggs AM: Do we have a problem at present with the number of public order-trained officers?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Not at the moment. We are slightly shy of the number -- I cannot remember, we can find out for you. We are slightly shy of the number but regardless of that, I think we should be paying an extra allowance and as soon as we can get the national agreement for it, we will do it.

John Biggs AM: Thank you very much.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I just want to say on the whole morale question what Bernard says is very wise about morale as a commodity. Certainly there is going to be an issue when you are concentrating on building up the numbers of police constables that we talked about, there will be questions around career progression and all that. You have rightly raised those before. When I talk to police officers, I do think that they are rightly taking a great deal of pride and satisfaction in the job that they are doing, and if you look at the record it is fantastic.

John Biggs AM: It is because they are scared.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I will just raise -- I do not know if anybody saw *The Times* on Monday but it is the first editorial we have had about the Metropolitan Police Service for I do not know how long, which actually commented on how well the organisation is doing. Things like that can make a difference to the people who work in it, because when you have been hit for year after year with people only identifying the things you are not doing very well, without being able to see the things that you are doing well, that has an effect which sometimes I cannot control either.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Chair, I think we should reflect on that. We have reviewed the annual report which is looking backwards. My first experience of being before a parliamentary select committee, the first question for the select committee, from the chairman, Keith Vaz, was why is London lagging the rest of the country in the crime reduction curve?

John Biggs AM: That was the question that we --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That was the first question that I had to justify.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We will have some questions on that in a minute.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Why London was lagging in the rest -- we are going to come to crime but it is interesting to note what was reflected in *The Times* editorial and in the article because of course the position has reversed. While the national crime reduction is at or around 3%, London was at around 1% but is now in the last year at 6%. That is something that every police officer and the leadership, Sir Bernard and his team, can be rightly proud of. That is what raises morale, when you are doing everything in your power to ensure that this is the greatest but also the safest global city on earth.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We are going to move on to some other issues but I am aware Members have got three major issues still to deal with. So, Len [Duvall], you are going to be the next one on crime figures.

Len Duvall AM: To Sir Bernard, crime in London is continuing in its long downward trend. What is your assessment of the reasons for that trend -- and can we expect it to continue?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am not going to get too much caught on predictions because we have been accused of being clairvoyant, so I probably will not follow that up. In terms of why, I think first of all as you said Len, generally crime has come down over the years. People do not always believe it, but it is true where you look at house burglary, things that are reported and car theft. I think the reasons why we have had some success is that we have concentrated on repeat offenders and, particularly, around the gangs. There were two reasons I thought it was important to create a gangs command. One was lots of people told me gangs were a problem. Everyone you talked to, whether political or in the communities would say this is a real issue. Two, when you looked at the statistics what you saw is that gangs were accounting for half the shootings and a quarter

of the robberies. It is a group of about 3,500 people who are having this major impact on 8.5 million, which cannot continue.

We have borne down on those. It has got more to do. I have never said it would be a one-year hit. I do not know how long it will take, but it is going to need a determination to enforce the law against them or divert them. If we can do that, and do that with equal ruthlessness, so if we can do both together I think that has been a big thing. There were some structural things we know have helped, so, you know, the designer cars but we are just starting to see car theft starting to rise again, because they have worked out a way to steal cars again, so we are going to have to work at that with the designers and see what we can do.

I think concentrating on repeat offenders and locations is good. The other one is something that Simon Byrne, I thought, brought which was not always appreciated by the borough commanders, but they were expected to know what helped to stop crime. It was part of their job and they were expected to know in some detail. Now, some people would say that is intervening too far and they are supposed to be left to get on with the job. That is fine if they know what works and keep doing it consistently. Policing, as you know, has always got an excuse for not doing things consistently - there is another emergency, there is this. Even if you can get it done two-thirds of the time with some consistency, it can make a real difference. I think that discipline that Simon brought by saying it is not OK to say it is just down to - whether it is raining or not - has really paid some dividends.

Len Duvall AM: OK. Just moving on in terms of the consistency across performance and about understanding the variations in borough crime performance: how do we support and achieve a London-wide improvement? I really ask the Mayor in a sense what do you think MOPAC can do to support you in doing that, but I would not mind your initial impressions about that.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service):

Sometimes it can create a tension and you will understand this from a political side. Sometimes we would prefer to dedicate officers towards need and not towards political need. I am not saying that would be an issue for all governments. If we ever said that we put 20,000 into Westminster, you can just wait for the -- it just would not happen. I am not saying we would argue that but my point is sometimes the communities' needs as they describe it in terms of a general need, is not always what we see in terms of an extra demand. So, I think you have got this constant tension, where do we deploy our resources. If we can keep a good, adult discussion about that, that is helpful. Beyond that, with this Committee and with the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, we have a good, adult discussion about whether we are wise in deploying our resources. I think the second thing which was really helpful is where we can, to keep it at the highest level; so if we dedicate two-thirds of our resources to territorial policing, do we think that is OK or not? Shall we put 70% in? Those are big things that are helpful.

Len Duvall AM: Could a further driver in terms of better performance across the boroughs, and maybe there is a review on it, about the issue of intelligence handling and predictive methods, some of that stuff.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): As you are aware, we are implementing that right across London. I think it is a good idea and it has shown in America that it can help. I think the test is time, in that what you have got is good analysis about where you imagine the crime might be and, therefore, patrolling can help to deter it. The problem is, over time, keeping the level of spare capacity and patrol, as Craig was talking about earlier. That is all right in the short term but over time I think it can get distracted, so that is going to be our test in the coming years.

The other point I should have mentioned is one of the biggest aggravating factors in terms of crime is alcohol. Licensing is controlled by local authorities now. It used to be magistrates, but now it is local authorities. I think at times they have competing demands. At one level they want to promote economic activity and the night-time economy is a great driver of good economic activity, but it can also lead to other things too. I think the control of licensing, not the prohibition, the proper control of licensing, good licensees, and 90%-odd want to do a good job and want to make a business, but the ones where that is not the case; we should bear down really hard on those and say, "You've got a privilege called a licence. You have got to keep to it and if you're serving drunks under age, you should lose it". I have got fairly zero tolerance when it comes to bad sale of alcohol.

Len Duvall AM: To the Mayor and Deputy May for Policing and Crime, in terms of issues of consistency and performance across London or pushing it further down, are there any comments or concerns you have?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Just to repeat the point that Bernard makes, I think the police's record at the moment is very, very encouraging. Burglaries are at the lowest level since 1974 in London. That is a great achievement by the Metropolitan Police Service, by neighbourhood policing. However, I think you have to be rational and I think what Bernard says about the distribution of resources is entirely right; and sometimes there will be political pressures from boroughs or from communities. Rather like the conversation we had earlier on with Joanne, we are not seeing the cops here, people say. That may be a mistake in some cases, but in some cases it may be rational, and it may be that you need to concentrate your energies in some part of Westminster rather in another part of Westminster. So, it is a question of making those arguments with London Government and with borough leaders, and being absolutely frank about what we are trying to achieve. Provided there is transparency and clarity about what the police are aiming for, I think people will get it and they will appreciate and support it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): If I may just make one additional point to what has already been said. We have to recognise just how amazing it is to be able to sustain any kind of crime reduction, not over one year but over now several years of this magnitude, against a background of dwindling resources. All of the charts show that this is not something that the Metropolitan Police Service has had to contend with, certainly in this century. There has always been essentially more money each year, some flattening off but now we are seeing a stark change in the picture on budgets. That means making some really tough choices.

The key to this, and I try to look at five principles I thought were important around policing and austerity. Principle number two is, "Find time to prevent crime". If you look at that 1974 statistic, burglaries are at 1974 levels, a lot of that is the work around preventing crime. It is cocooning, making sure that the victim of the burglary gets good advice but also the houses that are nearby take appropriate steps. It is the other use of traceable liquids and we have seen that being used in Brent by the then Borough Commander, Matt Gardner; and now that is being rolled out with MOPAC support across London. It is the electronic tagging of repeat offenders that we have seen in Hounslow, that is now being championed by other boroughs because it is a small number of repeat burglars that commit most of the crime.

It is all of these strategies around prevention that matter. You, last time, Len, in the previous Committee, said can we think about prevention around violence and that is entirely the right strand that we are also looking at; because we can see that, again, often this is driven by excessive use of alcohol. I was shocked at just how paralytic some members of the public already are by about 8.30pm in the evening, when I went out on one of those big wing days in Clapham with Specials. They were both sexes, literally paralytic. That wasn't late in the evening. It was about 8.30pm or 9.00pm. It is interesting to note, as the Commissioner says, that the sale of alcohol in town centres, although massively important for the economy, it does present a policing challenge.

In Kingston, where the town centre is four wards, 50% of the crime in Kingston takes place in the town centre. Yes, the cameras are important, but policing and getting those officers on at the times when they need them, to deal with the fact that you have got a very much younger population with the expansion of Kingston university and other things requires a town centre strategy; where policing plays its part in ensuring the town centre is safe and that you bear down, with the support of local authorities, in trying to deal with it, but ideally designing it out. I think the real challenge for the police service is, as Bernard alludes to, collaborating with local government. We are seeing this with Transport for London (TfL) of course, in the transport hubs where TfL are supporting the training in crime prevention, of thousands of police officers. I believe TfL are funding that, ensuring that they are bringing together and working with town centre managers and TfL members of staff, to ensure that we prevent crime from happening in the first place. I think that is definitely the way to go.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The only other one I would mention, because I have got the opportunity, but we have been public about it over the last couple of weeks is that over the last three years we have seized now 100,000 vehicles which were uninsured. The critical thing for me about that is 70% of them are driven by criminals, so if you can inhibit their mobility - they should not be driving uninsured cars anyway - and we have crushed lots and we have sold some, it can make an impact. It is a accumulative impact and I could not prove to you that that therefore, means there are two less burglaries. I do not know how to do that. However, 100,000 is a large number of cars that were off the road and have made a difference to people's insurance premiums as well. That cumulative effect of concentrating on repeat offenders at repeat locations, I think can make a real difference.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you for your responses around that but, look, the thing that really negates against, not everything you said because there is a lot of broad agreement in terms of what you have said, -- is the sanctioned detection rates; and the performance across London goes completely against the thrust of the achievements that you have got. It sticks out like a sore thumb and for you, Mr Mayor, in terms of your breakfast reading, and the Uxbridge area in the Borough of Hillingdon, it means, inconsistency of sanctioned detection rates, around 21% over the last two years, so there is no drag on this. It means probably logically thinking 89% of crime goes unsolved. That is the stark reality.

If we can turn to the Commissioner about the inconsistency across the boroughs between sanction detection rates and what we can do about that, and about where there is a mismatch from achievement, real achievement, I am not debating that or challenging that, so the reality around some of those issues and where we are going and what can we do to do that, to drive that up. What are the issues both in terms of the challenges for you or to others about doing this because it is not good in London. We cannot say it is fantastic.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think you are making a very valid point and I think everybody on this side would totally accept that sanctioned detection rates needed to come up. It is something we look at continuously. Progress on sanctioned detection rates is not as fast as we would like. The best way to drive them down is to keep driving crime down.

Len Duvall AM: Mr Mayor, if I can just react to this. The logic of the issue is this. We have got crime going down. We are screening out crimes. We are screening out crimes that should make it easier to get the ones that do it. So, crime is going down, we are screening out. You and your own measures, we have got a renewed focus and renewed focus about tackling crime and achieving that, and the results are just not there in some boroughs. Some boroughs are doing well, but there are a lot of boroughs that are not doing well.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The first thing I would say and it is what the Mayor has already said, I am not satisfied that we are shifting this. There are in some areas, as you say, they are shifting it not quick enough, so I acknowledge that there is a lot to do. Helen, in her new job, as well as looking at neighbourhood policing is looking at how we get better. There are some structural issues here that we have to acknowledge. We are not Dyfed, Powys who have a detection rate, I cannot understand, of about 70%-odd, and 28% of the offenders we arrest every year are foreign nationals. That imposes structural challenge, but then again we have benefits here like CCTV coming out of our ears which is a great opportunity, that you do not get in Dyfed, Powys. Although there are some challenges in this city which cause some difficulties in detection, I am not content at all, I am not happy where we are. I am determined it will improve but I acknowledge entirely that we have not got there yet.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): If I may say, that is one of the key drivers of confidence. It is the public feeling that not only when they report a crime, the police attend and all that. What they really want is to feel that the culprit has been punished.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): All crime is the same. I had the Assistant Commissioner of the NYPD coming over for our Policing Levels Cities conference and remarking just how incredible the detection rate is for murder, which is around 95%. If you commit a murder in the capital, you will be caught. He was saying in New York it is 40%. So, we have got to recognise that - or is it higher?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): No, no. They have many more murders.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They have many more murders but their detection rate is much lower. I think it is 40% - maybe I am getting the numbers wrong but it is 50% - it is certainly not 95% and he is remarking just how incredible those figures were and what he could learn from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Len Duvall AM: Let me give you an example, Stephen, of where - and I think you are right totally about the murder crime - a constituent of mine gets stabbed on the run up to Christmas and he is at a bank machine. He gets visited by a police officer in the New Year who says, "Well, actually if you were murdered, we probably would have caught them by now and the fact that you weren't, we're not likely to. Sorry". That is the reality and that reality meets sanctioned detection rate figures of other crimes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I cannot argue with that.

Len Duvall AM: That is what, I think, the challenge is, isn't it?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: So, somehow, renewed focus both politically and in terms of where you are coming from, Commissioner, in terms of everyone else, we have got to do better.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I do not think anybody is disagreeing with you, Len.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If an officer said that, I would actually support that, but we are doing something about that because we have acknowledged exactly the same point which is that we are asking the murder teams to take on more; and some of the serious crime teams to take on things that would have been a murder but for half an inch. It is a very fair point. Same motive, same risk and we do need to put more people into it. So, if that is the murder teams and some of the serious crime teams to take some of those things that would have stayed with the borough, I would say that they put some of your expertise into this, because they can be solved. However it does need people to do some door knocking and CCTV and all the other things that take time and resources.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): If I just, put this argument logically, if we take Hammersmith & Fulham as one example, the annual fall in MOPAC crimes has gone down by 17% but sanctioned detection has gone down by 42%. You would expect, if crime is falling, that officers and the resources there would be more able to solve the crimes that are there. It just does not seem to be happening.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have got to say, because I do have some memories of Hammersmith & Fulham, very fond memories until about 2012.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Kensington and Merton as well.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have very fond memories of Hammersmith & Fulham until. -- I am still a resident there and I have been a victim of crime in Hammersmith & Fulham and my family has. What I notice is a seismic reduction in crime that you allude to, around a quarter, and I was out there as part of the big wing in Hammersmith & Fulham around burglary and I was there when they arrested a burglar. On the ground, I see a huge mobilisation of resources to catch criminals and, yes, we may play around with percentages but I think the public make very clear what they want. The public prioritise the policing mission and we have researched this very clearly.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Stephen, this is --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Number one is around preventing crime. Number three is around solving crime. I think yes, you can improve the amounts of criminals that are brought to justice. However the reality is the remarkable thing about Hammersmith & Fulham are the amounts of crime we have designed out through a very good camera network and great work by the police service in stopping crime from happening in the first place; because the council funded extra police officers in the town centres.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I picked on Hammersmith & Fulham because that has actually the lowest drop of sanctioned detection rates.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): But I think the public of Hammersmith & Fulham would be delighted in seeing a reduction in crime. It is absolutely seismic.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Sir Bernard, there are some boroughs that are obviously doing a lot better than others. Can I ask what are you doing to take the lessons from those boroughs to make sure we get rapid improvement in other boroughs, because obviously some are getting it right?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I will take the first point which is that if you see a reduction in detections, how do you account for a reduction in crime? I think there are two things really. First of all, what they have done is concentrate on repeat offenders so you may be arresting less people but still able to deter them from committing more crimes. They are committing a lot of crime in a short period of time. Taking one burglar out is really helpful.

The second thing is in terms of sharing the best practice, that is exactly what the CompStat process [Four Principles for Managing Crime Reduction – Accurate and Timely Intelligence, Effective Tactics, Rapid Deployment and Relentless Follow-Up and Assessment], that Simon

Byrne started and Helen King will continue, is about. It seems quite an interrogatory thing. "What are you doing and why aren't you getting better?" if you like. It is a genuine, "Well, look, in Hammersmith you are doing really well" or not but let us stick with the good performing boroughs and why do you think that is the case and from that, then you get the Brent example of SmartWater and you find that people in Hounslow are using tagging. When you find out that these things are happening that is a great forum in which to share good.

Now, of course, nobody wants to go into that room when you are not doing so well because it is not a good thing to try to explain why things are not going as well as you would like. At least there is a sharing in that forum once a month, where they have an opportunity to say what is going well and what is not. Generally, we have got a really good set of our commanders who are trying their best and having some really good success. You will have one or two at any one time who frankly could do a lot better who may not be up to it. That gets exposed at times but what it does mean is that good practice is shared in that way. We have other processes too, so we have a head of forensic science. One of the big contributors to our detection rate is whether or not we find DNA or finger prints at the scene, so more and more we get facial recognition from camera images.

So, those are the three big things and if some boroughs are doing it well -- we have video units, as you know, around London who are looking at images of people committing crime. Some of those units do really well, they detect an awful lot, and some of them seem to not be as good. So, we are doing a lot to try to encourage people to learn from others. Sometimes they receive it as a criticism but often it is intended to try to promote higher standards.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Have you done any work to find out whether the new safer neighbourhood officers, who are perhaps very new and have not got those investigative skills, have got a higher concentration in some boroughs. Have you looked to see whether that is correlated to the reduction of sanctioned detections?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am not sure we have done the work. Perhaps we could. Whether or not they are going to contribute to detection rates, they should certainly be. It is a fair point because we say that is one of the reasons that we want to change them, to get more enforcements. It is a fair challenge to ask. Whether we can show that yet, I do not know, but we can ask that question.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That would be quite useful. John [Biggs] you are going to carry on.

John Biggs AM: Actually, can I just punch the bruise that Len punched, if you like, about murder and other serious offences? Clearly there are some murders which are pretty open and shut and a borough could very easily detect them; and there are some serious assaults which are left on the borough which could do with serious expertise to help them be managed. I make that point because I feel it quite strongly. I have had a few incidents in my patch where it seemed evident that if we thought a bit more about how we prioritise, then we could get better outcomes. I note that you are agreeing with that, so I will move onto my question.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am not sure we agree I was just listening. I was indicating I had heard.

John Biggs AM: Hopefully you are agreeing but you can perhaps wrap it into your comment later on. My question is to the Mayor actually. It is about anti-terrorism and about terrorism, and the Police and Crime Plan highlights the terrorism threat in London. There has been a lot in the media about Syria, for example, but that is not the only issue in the press or in people's minds. What is your assessment of the risk and what are you doing to manage it?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): What is my assessment of the risk?

John Biggs AM: Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The risk, as you know, John, remains at substantial which is one below severe, I believe. That has been unchanged now for a matter of years. Clearly, I am briefed on the risk from Syria, returnees from Syria and other such places, and, yes, obviously it is a concern; and it is very important that the police should have the resources to devote to tackling that risk. The law is very clear about people who go off to Syria to engage in terrorism and who come back here. You have seen the results of the law being applied in some recent cases.

John Biggs AM: The annual report says, *"MOPAC has held discussions with London councils to agree how partners can better work together on the PREVENT [One of the four elements of the Governments CONTEST, counter-terrorism, strategy] agenda including mainstreaming into safeguarding with the caveat ..."* - although I am not too sure what mainstreaming into safeguarding means. Could you tell us what you see your role as being in tackling extremist views when they emerge?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think you have got to support completely what is being done with the whole PREVENT agenda. It is a question of constant engagement with the community and with people, and very largely supporting groups within the community who are, themselves, determined to tackle extremists; and making sure that they know that they have our support in doing so. Very often the solution to these problems will come from the community, from, particularly, the Muslim community themselves.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): As you know, John, I think it would be fair to say, just to take away, perhaps, the language of practitioners and making it totally comprehensible and transparent, obviously we have got the resources around Counter-Terrorism (CT) policing that are incredibly stretched in trying to disrupt moves by groups to terrorise the city. They have to disrupt a 7/7 style plot pretty much constantly. Equally, we want to prevent terror from happening in the first place. That is not just a job for policing. It is not just a job for the Security Services. It does require engagement with communities, as the Mayor says, and also the involvement of other statutory services. One of the things that we are doing in the Mayor's office is engaging with the safeguarding leads in boroughs, to ensure that this is well up the agenda; and this is something that everyone collectively works on to ensure that we can prevent terrorism from happening and taking place in the first place.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I do not want to be unduly alarmist but I do not think I would be wrong in saying that the Syria returnees are posing a significant extra concern. If you imagine, perhaps a year or so ago we would be thinking of maybe 3,000 or 4,000 people - in the low thousands of people - who would be of significant concern. As I understand the matter now, the question of people coming back from Syria is an additional concern and that is why it is very important that we support the work of the Counter Terrorism police in all their aspects and particularly discouraging people from being so foolish as to go there.

John Biggs AM: This is a delicate area for political scrutiny, isn't it, but do you think - and the Government changed the perspective on the PREVENT strategy when there was a change of Government - do you think that that strategy is working effectively? Do you think it has a London dimension to it which works differently and what are your metrics for its success?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): The key metric for success is the general level of people that we think are being radicalised or self-radicalised, I suppose, and that would be a piece of data that we would attach particular importance to. It is very difficult to quantify because people can now access stuff on the internet, or they have been able for many years to access stuff on the internet, to enable them to self-radicalise without the need of some hate preacher or whatever or intervention of that kind. So, it is very hard to count the numbers or assess where they are in the hierarchy of risk because, as we saw in the case of Adebolajo and Adebawale, they were out there. They were known but they were not thought to present quite as much a threat to society as it then proved that they did. That is the constant challenge for counter-terrorism. It is keeping a huge number of people -- well, a large number of people under surveillance or keeping tabs on a large number of people but then also realising that there will also be a significant number of people that you may simply not know about. As I say, there is this additional concern now about returnees from Syria and that requires particular attention.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): John, you are alluding to this issue around clarifying governance. I am part of a national CT policing board representing, obviously, London's interest on behalf of the Mayor. That goes through performance information and I get briefed on the London picture, obviously classified but I get an understanding of some of the issues. Clearly, that is part of the process of oversight and it is fair to say, as the Mayor stated, the Syria returners are going to be a problem not just for this year, but a threat to London for many years to come. What we are trying to do is recognise that there is a city dimension to this. There is a city dimension to terror and certainly I am looking to convene with my colleagues in Manchester and Birmingham, but I have talked to Tony Lloyd about this; because at a city level, at least, we ensure that the cities work together to do all we can to ensure we are as resilient as possible in the face of what is going to be a sustained threat.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): With a solution. Just to get back to you, I think the solution, in so many cases, is going to be found within the Muslim community or in the returnees themselves or within the neighbourhood. Those are the people who really need our help and support. It is about the maximum possible engagement and understanding.

John Biggs AM: When I talk to young people in my constituency, I do worry that a lot of us, I am not picking on you, do not really know what we are talking about on this issue. I do worry an awful lot about that. We can talk about that another time. Shall I move swiftly on or did Len have something?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We understand the consequences of terror, don't we John? We understand that when four bombers blow things up and kill, we understand that, don't we.

John Biggs AM: I am thinking about consciousness and the thought processes and the sense of identity of communities. I am not attacking you. I am wondering --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I understand the spirit in which you make that remark, John, and I think what you are getting at is it is very difficult for any of us to get ourselves into the mindset of young people who become radicals, who get radicalised. That is, indeed, the difficulty.

John Biggs AM: There are some very ordinary young people who are not going to go out and make bombs or anything. You have very different perceptions about what priorities are, what the state of world affairs is, where Government policy belongs and where their consciousness lies on these issues.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I accept that. I think, as a city, and as leaders in London, we have to be absolutely clear with those young people that their loyalty is to this country and to this city which they grew up in; and their loyalty is to this community here in London and not to -- I think it is absolutely vital that we do not allow this idea that the vagaries of geo-politics or international politics or international, foreign policy, whatever, can only legitimate terrorism. It is absolutely vital, and I know completely what you are talking about, but we have got to be absolutely crystal clear that being British, being in London means having your primary loyalty to this city and this country.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Interventions from Len [Duvall] and Roger [Evans].

Len Duvall AM: Just following up on that and I do not say this is a political view, but the review of control orders, there has been now enough time to see what the effect of that has been. There is emergency legislation going through now. Have the police made any representations on control orders? Mr Mayor, you are chair of your Ethics Committee in a former life and, subsequently, have raised issues and concerns about that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: They are not perfect but there is a need to look at them again to see if we can get the best out of control orders as they are in operation now. They were changed --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): For TPIMs (Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures). -- --

Len Duvall AM: In that sense. Has there been any discussion about trying to review existing control orders to see if they can be made better?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Not from our point of view. I think, going back to your earlier point, probably a little bit too earlier but I do know that it is -- the debate really was had before the legislation changed. I think now we have to assess whether or not it is working in the way that was hoped and, as you know, the major change was instead of saying to someone they could only live in the one area, it said, the new change says they cannot go into some areas. Quite a big fundamental change and change is the way we police it, because it is easier to see whether someone leaves an area rather than it is to see where they might wander into. So, we have to wait and see how that works out, but at the moment it is a little bit too early to say we start making recommendations for change,

Len Duvall AM: Again, Chair, I think we should ask this continuously because things change. We are all at one, both the political side of policing and the technical side of policing, that the capability of the Metropolitan Police Service in counter-terrorism should not, and things change, be removed from the police service here in London.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. I am very grateful for your saying that, Len, and I hope that very much is the view of the Committee. Forgive me if I am not aware of this, but am I right in thinking, Joanne, that you have already made representations to that effect to Government?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We have not yet. It might be something we would think to do.

John Biggs AM: That would be quite useful.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I think that may be very viable indeed.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That is useful. Roger [Evans].

Roger Evans AM: Yes, thank you. Commissioner, I just thought, given the attack on the 7/7 memorial earlier this week, it might be useful for you to just reassure us and Londoners about how that is being treated. My feeling is given what the memorial stands for and the date of the attack and the nature of the slogans that were used, that is a bit more than criminal damage. I would think that you could easily treat that as incitement. Is that the approach you are taking?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I think the only thing I can say about it is it is pretty despicable that someone, first of all, chose to damage that memorial at the time they did. It is there commemorating the loss of an awful lot of lives and a lot of the people who survived but were very badly hurt by it. I think we should all condemn it and we will do our best to find the person or people who did it. However it is not very good and it is pretty despicable.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Totally. The people who did it take absolutely no account, obviously, of the range of Londoners of every faith, every background who died or who were injured in that outrage. One thing I would say about that, it is a trivial point, but it is worth making, I was grateful to staff, I think from TfL it was, who worked very hard overnight to rectify the damage. Their efforts should be recorded.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It was TfL. I wondered who did it.

John Biggs AM: Shall I move on? I have two other questions.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I think we can do it by writing given the time.

John Biggs AM: OK, happy to do that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): But the last question, I think.

John Biggs AM: About serious youth crimes?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes.

John Biggs AM: This is to the Commissioner. Very good news on gangs and youth crime but in the past year there has been a spike in serious youth crimes, quite a serious one. Can you tell us about that and how you intend to respond?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Can you just point me to which figures you are talking about, John?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It is measured by number of victims. The number of victims of serious offences has gone up in this last year despite falling for the few years before.

John Biggs AM: I have got a chart here.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It would be lovely to see it.

John Biggs AM: Yes, you can have it if you like.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): But it is yours.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You know there has been a change in the definition of the crime.

John Biggs AM: Here we go. In 2013/14, "The number of convictions of serious youth violence rose to 5,873, an increase of 901 compared to the previous year".

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We had this discussion with Len last time -- actually no, it was you John actually, when we talked about this.

John Biggs AM: Goodness me.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): At the time I did not think there had been a re-definition of the crime. In fact, there has been. I thought I had written to you about that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That was in the Mayor's most serious violence in general.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

John Biggs AM: This is about youth crime.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Not necessarily serious youth crime because this measures the number of victims and not the actual crime.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It will have an impact.

John Biggs AM: It will have an impact.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It will have an impact on youth violence. I presume it is the same question in a slightly different guise.

John Biggs AM: There appears to be a spike from your figures in the number of victims of serious youth violence in the past year.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I think the definition is going to apply to serious youth violence as it will to general violence.

John Biggs AM: OK.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I can look at it for you again, I am quite happy to write, but we did establish that I was wrong when I said there had not been a re-classification. That is what accounted for the rise.

John Biggs AM: Do we have to go away and check the baseline?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am quite happy to look at it. If I am wrong, I will accept it, but I think that is what is accounting for that.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It says in our briefing,

"The increase in serious youth violence is attributed to a change in crime recording rather than an increase in the levels of violence." I think we should write and underpin, give you the facts that underpin that statement.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Exactly right. I am told that the Metropolitan Police Service adopted the Home Office's amended classification of Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) which now includes low level wounding. "This has had a significant impact in increasing the recorded level of crime within the most serious violence category." So, there was a reclassification. Look, that does not mean we do not take youth violence very, very seriously.

John Biggs AM: Fine, let us just break --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): As you know, there are some more encouraging bits.

John Biggs AM: You are sitting there with your hands on your bibles or whatever your chosen document is. You are confident then that the downward trend in youth violence is continuing?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, certainly at the moment.

John Biggs AM: OK.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Although, John, it is fair to say that the Commissioner has been on the record on this that we welcome the move around mandatory sentencing for people in possession of knives for the second offence, because the reduction in gun-related violence has sustained, but less so for knife crime. We want the sanctions to be in place, that is important, the tactics about how you move away from just enforcement to what the Commissioner has described as ruthless diversion. So, there is no complacency, but we have to say that if you change the rules then the numbers can change as well.

John Biggs AM: I have no problem with that. This is an adversarial setting but, by and large, I am happy with a lot of the work I have seen on gangs in the last few years, and I think that is good stuff.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Let us clarify because we did get a letter about the most serious violence, but that is the number of incidences. Serious youth violence is the number of victims. There may be a crossover but I think we need to look at that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: One very, very quick question. Your Police and Crime Plan recognises that tackling gang-related offending and violence, is an absolute priority and you have launched a new framework for dealing with girls and gangs. But I think that less than half of the 21 police forces that have identified active gangs, have actually mapped females who are associated with gang members. I think the Metropolitan Police Service only has one girl on their

gangs' metrics database. So, really to Sir Bernard, what are you actually doing to ensure that you are properly mapping this, and properly addressing this issue of girls associated with gangs?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am pretty sure Caroline, I know, that there are far more girls on that gang database of 3,500. I am just trying to remember, because I only looked at it this week, I am just looking through to see if I can see this number but I cannot immediately.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you doing some specific work, mapping.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is not a very large -- it is only like a percentage or two percentage points. It remains that about 90% are men. For me, probably one of the bigger issues is women are victims against the gangs. But some of them clearly are getting involved in violence and some of them are carrying weapons, which means that they will be dealt with as an offender.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you doing any mapping exercise to really understand the issue of females who are associated with gang members in order to progress the work that MOPAC has launched?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I will get you the exact numbers. I did not arrive prepared for that. I know I have seen it this week and, from memory, it was something like 30 or less than 100 out of 3,500 but there was slightly more than one.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you doing some work mapping this?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is what I described really, the 3,500. First of all, those who are suspects and then the other part are those who are around the gangs but being traded, sadly, sometimes as sexual objects.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: That is helpful, thank you.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There are also charities that are helping with that because once identified, we cannot, as a police officer, do an awful lot. You can however support building confidence in an individual, letting them know how they can get out of this and do something to stop them getting involved with these dangerous and, I think, corrupt gangs.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Caroline, MOPAC are commissioning specific programmes on the ground, co-commissioning with councils. I visited one in Croydon that is organised by the Safer London Foundation, specifically to deal with women and girls at risk of sexual violence around gangs. I think it is the Empower Programme.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Interesting to hear and I wrote to the Mayor last week following some questions to the Mayor about sexual exploitation around looked after children, and he did

commit you to do some work around that. If it was not copied to you, it should have been, but that is something I am very supportive of. Thank you.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): There was a piece of work that we did – I cannot even remember when it was now, perhaps some other people were involved in it – that actually recommended that the Metropolitan Police Service looked at mapping exactly the kind of facts that Stephen described; which was that it is not only the women who are at risk of sexual violence, but also violence generally as pressure on other gang members. I am a bit concerned that the mapping has not been done and done extensively so far.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I may be wrong but I believe there is some, but we will find out and share what we have.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That will be really good, yes.

Roger Evans AM: Some questions about criminal justice now. We have got the inspection report for the Crime Prosecution Service (CPS) for 2014 which actually looks at figures from 2013. They conclude that whilst the timeliness of case preparation is improving, quality still needs substantial improvement, and the proportion of effective trials has declined. This is a question for MOPAC actually but are you ensuring that pressure to get these things done quickly is not actually going to lead to a decline in quality.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I see no reason why it should. Obviously what we want to do is to set very, very clear goals for our criminal justice system in London to cut delays. Justice delayed, justice is denied. Going back to this central issue of people's confidence in the whole system, if they feel that the whole thing is chaotic, the culprits are never coming to court and evidence cannot be got together; that will erode public confidence in what is going on. The delays are being cut, but cut very slowly. The progress is not as fast as we would like, so we have really put a whole rocket under this at the London Crime Reduction Board, bringing together absolutely everybody involved to try to sort it out. Very often, it will be basic things and one group not telling the other where the files are, or people not turning up, not being produced as witnesses when they should be produced as witnesses. Those are very frustrating factors. As I have mentioned to the Committee before, we had the additional problem in London that defendants are much more likely to plead not guilty in the city owing to the natural self-confidence of Londoners, or something.

Roger Evans AM: Optimism.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Optimism or perhaps opportunistic solicitors. That is one of the things we have to contend with and we do.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think it is important to recognise, Roger, that there is a national drive because, effectively, we have a national criminal justice system for the London region; and there is a national drive around Sure Justice. The Mayor, obviously setting the challenge around reducing court delays or improving court timeliness, does want to see both Swift and Sure Justice. It is important that Londoners receive

swift and sure justice. The key to that is establishing the principles introduced to the Metropolitan Police Service by Simon Byrne, and continuing under Helen King, that the whole crime fighters' approach should be something that you can set over the entire criminal justice system; to ensure that we can question, through transparency, and say why are some court buildings and parts of London taking so long to do this? Is it entirely explained by the case mix? I think that is important, that there is a constant transparency around the time it takes to manage a case. In the same way that we have talked about the digital era around policing, we are moving into the digital era for courts; and the digital case file and overnight transfer is happening for the Metropolitan Police Service to the CPS. All of that will help timeliness.

I have to say we have not seen the results so far, but I am hoping the next two years will see substantial progress.

Roger Evans AM: Looking at these figures, actually something that really surprised me, and it is not strictly your responsibility but it is something that you will probably want to take up, is the percentage of trials that went ahead on dates set down because they have fallen in the period that this report was taken. For the Crown Court, down from 57% to 33%. For the Magistrates' Court, down from 65% to 40%. For the Youth Court, amazingly and given our focus on youth crime, down from 67% to 17%. There is no explanation here as to why that is. It might be because of the reorganisation in the court system in London, possibly, but do you not think there is something there that you probably need to take up with the justice system?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Very helpful. I love those figures and that is drawing attention to those problems. No doubt, we need to raise that when we next look at this issue.

Roger Evans AM: OK. Well, I will let you have those. The Committee is going to look later this year at the changes to the probation service because, that is a major issue in London and a major change. Do you think it is likely to affect the level of compliance with community sentences?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Are you asking us to look into the future, Roger, because I think we are doing our very best --

Roger Evans AM: Yes, I guess I am.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would say let us just celebrate, because this is all part of looking at the annual report. Obviously we need to recognise that one of the ambitions is to improve compliance with community orders and we are on track to meet the target as we stand two years in to this Mayoral term. You are right to say that any change is something that requires us to be constantly vigilant, to ensure that it is going to work and that it is going to deliver. I know the Mayor, obviously, chairs the London Crime Reduction Board, and it is something we always return to as an issue, is it not?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): It is, it is.

Roger Evans AM: Good. Well, that sounds like you have got your eye on the ball. One more question. Let's talk about youth re-offending and your figures in that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is brilliant. It is on track as well.

Roger Evans AM: Yes, but the figures in the MOPAC report tell us that youth re-offending rates have been improved from 71% in March 2011 to 62.5% in March 2012. That is an improvement worth celebrating, but it happened before you were appointed, Stephen, and before your second re-election, Mr Mayor. Could we not have some more recent figures?

John Biggs AM: The figures I have, Roger, are even more encouraging than that. There is a 20% reduction in re-offending by young people.

Roger Evans AM: When was that?

John Biggs AM: No, the next figures are March 2012.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): I have got 70.8% and 56.6%.

John Biggs AM: That is the target.

Roger Evans AM: When was that?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Sorry, that is the target, forgive me, forgive me, forgive me. You are right --

Roger Evans AM: It is all down to Boris I. Boris II will also be spectacular when we eventually get the figures.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We do not have the figures yet but you can rest assured that if you look at things like Daedalus (Project Daedalus, launched on 29 September 2009), we are building on the success of Daedalus.

Roger Evans AM: It is going to be scientific, isn't it?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): We are going to continue to support resettlement brokers and all the stuff that you would expect, and the London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB) is making an absolutely concerted effort on this through all the means that the Committee is familiar with, such as the multi-agency support hubs, making sure that when kids come out of prison there is somebody there to deal with their housing, trying to get them into employment and getting employers focussed on taking on young, ex-offenders. If you can crack that, you will really crack the problem.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Obviously the Mayor is right. The thing that strikes me, I spent some time with Lord Birt, who I thought was just a

person who bought suits from Armani, but as well as being Director General of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), he did, I believe, advise a Prime Minister. I think it was a Labour Prime Minister, and he looked at the criminal justice system and he gave some very wise advice about how you can grip offenders. The reality is that if you look at the kind of people that are committing large portions of violence on our streets, they are very few in number. I think we saw this when we discussed the gangs problem, that the top ten gangs account -- we might have 300-odd gangs or whatever the number is, but they account for about 40% of the violence on the streets of London.

Equally, if you look at just the total number of people associated with violence, it is less than 3,500 on the matrix. If you look at the London Integrated Offender Management (IOM), so the repeat offenders, it is 5,000 and this is all in a city of 8.4 million. So, it must be possible to grip those offenders and the numbers, we are not talking tens of thousands and I think if we can get to grips with that and we can see where they are, whether they are incarcerated or they have left prison, we need to get them on the right path. That is why resettlement works, and I think it is something that we believe we will deliver against. So, looking into the future, there is every reason why all the things that Boris achieved in his first term around resettlement brokers, we can build upon that, and achieve great things in the remaining two years. Although we may never know whether we have achieved it until well after we have departed office.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Yes. Perhaps, Stephen, when you are Mayor you can claim credit for --

Roger Evans AM: Boris III.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Of course, we are going to return to this in our Work Programme this year.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am looking forward to that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Youth re-offending is on our agenda. Have you finished, Roger?

Roger Evans AM: On that happy note.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. I just have one final question really and that is, in general, to both MOPAC and to the Mayor. It is about resources that are being used in many specialist investigations, for example Yewtree, and we have got the Assange issue at the Ecuadorian embassy. We have now got the Butler-Sloss inquiry into historic child abuse in Westminster and wider. It is reported in the *Police Oracle* today that Dr Tim Brain has said, for example for the Butler-Sloss inquiry, the resources are going to remain around four square with the Metropolitan Police Service, more than any other police force.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Who said that?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): He suggests that there is likely to be --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Tim Brain.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair) --no extra money from the Home Office because forces should use their contingencies and he suggests that --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Who is this chap?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Dr Tim Brain. He is an expert and he has been in here before. He was Chair of the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) Finance Business Area.

Roger Evans AM: Is that Brain or Bray?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I worked with him. I know who he is.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): He said today that the Metropolitan Police Service was in a no win situation and they were saying it is actually about specialist investigators; and suggests that you may have many specialist investigators that are not been used, so you should be able to cope within your own resources.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Sorry, what is he saying? Is he saying we need more or we need less?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): He seems to be saying you can manage.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): He is not being particularly helpful by the sound of it.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): He says, *"The problem about funding sufficient specialist investigators but all forces have specialist investigators and contingency of specialist investigators in reserve. I think the Home Office would expect forces to use their contingencies."* I suppose I am asking, do you have these specialist investigators in reserve or in contingency, or is there a case where at some point you are going to have to go to Government and ask them for further funding?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I think there are two things. First of all, there is no doubt, as the Mayor said earlier, we do get some extraordinary demands placed on the Metropolitan Police Service; some of which is for us and some of which is for national policing. If you looked at Operation Weeting around phone hacking, we had 195 staff, including 165 police officers. Now that has come down, so we are now running about 130 people altogether, 112 police officers, that will come down again over the next few months. So, that has released some people who might be applied to some of the things we have just described and as a result of these inquiries which have been announced, and that we will have to provide a service to. Of course it is not just the Metropolitan Police Service. Some of these cases are in London. If you looked at the allegations of historical sexual abuse,

involving allegations against MPs, there are at least six inquiries – Northern Ireland, North West, North Wales, East Anglia, Leicestershire and London; so it is not just London that will be affected by this. At the moment, we are assessing what these demands will mean and of course what we are trying to get to the bottom of is, how many of these allegations are crime allegations, if there is a suspect and how we will deal with that. At the moment, we are not making an extraordinary case, but we may if we find that we need that help.

I think one point that Tim Brain might have been making is that the money is not good enough of itself, you need the skills. I think we have got enough to team and labour at the moment but it is never easy. It would be better if we did not have these responsibilities, but at the end of the day it is crime. We are here to deal with it and that is best what we should do.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I should Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, where do you class --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): My general answer would be that you cannot minimise the gravity of what is being alleged now. We have to get to the bottom of it all. The public absolutely wants it and they are right. I think we do need to recognise that this will place a considerable strain on Metropolitan Police Service resources. We have seen the whole hacking stuff, Yewtree, as we said earlier on, this does have the potential to fill the time of a huge number of highly talented officers, who might be doing other forms of crime fighting. That is a point, obviously, we are going to have to make to the Home Office, if it starts to have serious resource implications, which it might.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. Jenny [Jones].

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I probably ought to know this but have you drawn a line under the hacking stuff now?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, there are a further 12 criminal cases that are coming to court. On the criminal side, I think there are two other issues that we have all got to be aware of. One is the civil process has not stopped and, as part of that, there are over 5,000 potential and actual victims of hacking who each have their own civil actions; and although their civil actions were against the organisations that committed that tort, they also want help from us in terms of disclosure. So, that produces a huge burden for their lawyers coming to the Metropolitan Police Service, which is one of the things that counts for all these people who are dealing with that; and there are other issues that have to be considered on the back of some of the convictions.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Personally, I would rather you started putting more effort into the new sexual abuse allegations against children.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We are doing. We have already got some officers in there. I think we tripled the number of people in there this week.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): (*overspeaking*) --by headlines.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Well over 20 people will be dedicated to that and we will make an assessment on the cases. Sometimes, as you will know, some of these things are shared in public in a headline way when you actually look beyond that. So, actually what we are talking about here, how many cases, how many victims, that gets a little more tenuous; and it takes a while because it means that sometimes victims have moved on to other parts of the country, sometimes abroad, and that imposes its own challenges. Not all the people who are prepared to tell us some of the details want to go on to the criminal justice process. They are quite happy to share what happened, but they do not want their lives exposing in the full glare of the publicity that will come with these cases. So, a lot of people are having to make some life choices, as well as revealing things that are pretty difficult for them to talk about.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Hideous.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That is the end of our questions. Thank you all for attending today.

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