

Letter to the Mayor on police funding and officer numbers

Key information

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Increasing officer productivity through innovation and investment could ease the tough choices required by the Met, the **London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee** has found.

The independent Policing Productivity Review, commissioned by the previous Government and published in November 2023, identified 26 recommendations that its authors say could, if implemented in full, free up approximately 38 million hours of police time each year within five years - equivalent in operational terms to around 20,000 additional officers across the UK.

However, the National Audit Office found that HM Treasury withdrew the investment funding originally provided to implement the Review from 2025-26, and the Home Office technology budget to support productivity was cut from £105 million in 2024-25 to £50 million in 2025-26.

The **London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee** has written to the Mayor, calling on him to lobby the Government to seek restoration of this funding and secure sustained investment to support the delivery of productivity improvements across policing.

The Committee is also encouraging the Met to take part in the next iteration of the Home Office Police Activity Survey, or to develop an in-house method to track neighbourhood policing productivity. Home Office Police Activity Survey data (not including the Met) shows that within participating forces, neighbourhood officers spend on average 18 per cent of their time on patrol.

[Read the letter in full](#)