

Date: Thursday, 11 July 2013

Location: The Chamber, City Hall

Hearing: MOPAC Challenge - - Quarterly Performance and Reducing Delays in the Criminal Justice System

Start time: 10:30am

Finish time: 12:00am

MOPAC Panel Members:

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair):

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime)

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member)

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member)

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member)

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member)

Linda Duncan (Chair of MOPAC/MPS Audit Panel)

Helen Bailey (MOPAC Chief Operating Officer)

Metropolitan Police Official:

Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner)

Craig Mackey (Deputy Commissioner)

Simon Byrne (Assistant Commissioner)

Guests:

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service)

Julien Vantigham (Justices' Clerk for London West, London North and East Region)

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor)

Jean Ashton (Senior Area Business Manager)

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary)

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Quarterly performance MOPAC Challenge. We have two big items on the agenda today and they are the performance of the moment in fighting crime in London, the success of the recent meeting of 20% crime reduction target and also the work of the Criminal Justice System in helping to reduce crime and what we are doing there to make sure that victims of crime can be confident that we have a swift system that is going to deliver justice.

I am very, very grateful to everybody who has come along this morning. My colleagues from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, our advisors Steve, Faith, Jeremy and Jonathan. I would particularly like to welcome the Commissioner and his colleagues. Welcome to you and, of course, I would like to welcome Adrian Foster, the Deputy Crown Prosecutor in London. Sheila Proudlock. I've got Proudfoot here. It's Proudlock in fact.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): It is.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Exactly right. It is a typo. Forgive me. Sheila Proudlock, forgive me, London Delivery Director for Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service; Adrian Foster, Deputy Crown Prosecutor for the CPS and Jean Ashton, the Senior Area Business Manager for the CPS. Welcome to you all. Thank you very much for giving up your time.

Sorry, I should also welcome in the Chair of the Audit Panel.

This is a session that will fall in roughly two parts. I propose, if that is all right, that we spend a shorter chunk on what is happening on the crime targets, Commissioner, Craig [Mackey] and Simon [Byrne] and then we will go on to what is happening with the Criminal Justice System.

Can I begin really with the crime figures which you have before you, Members?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Shall I proceed to set some context first?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay. Thanks, Stephen [Otter]. Sorry, Steve [Otter] you were going to set some context for the crime reduction figures and performance generally, are you?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): That is right. Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Thank you very much.

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Yes, I have been asked to just look at where the Metropolitan Police Service is against the rest of the country in the crime areas that we are looking at today. So, if we look at violence with injury, the Metropolitan

Police Service is 40th out of 43 forces. It has the highest levels in its most similar family, but it is reducing the gap through its reductions between the national average and itself. So, it is actually in an improving position.

I must stress that these are figures until the end of December. The Metropolitan Police Service have used its own data, but we are not allowed to use published data for the 43 forces for any date after December last year, unfortunately, because of the way in which the Office for National Statistics guards the quality of the data very jealously. I am afraid the trend issues are slightly old but I am sure the Commissioner and others might be able to update the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with more up-to-date figures.

Robbery, as of December, was the highest levels in the country and again, in terms of position in most similar family was highest out of the four but again was reducing the gap in December between itself and the national average.

In terms of burglary, which is by far the most significant volume in the MOPAC seven group, it was 41st out of 43 forces and was actually third in its most similar group. So one force, West Yorkshire, had a higher level per thousand population than the Metropolitan Police Service. What is concerning there, in December was the gap was widening. In actual fact, the Metropolitan Police Service was not keeping pace with the national average in terms of reductions around burglary.

Vehicle crime, the Metropolitan Police Service has the highest levels out of the 43 forces and it has the highest levels in its most similar family and in December, the gap was widening. In other words, it was worsening. Even though there have been reductions, it was worsening against the national average.

Theft from the person, we know this is a very significant area. It has the highest levels in the country, highest in its most similar family and again, the trends in December was the gap was widening significantly. So, there is actually a significant worsening of the situation in terms of levels against the national average.

Vandalism, the Metropolitan Police Service is the 13th best level. It is actually 13th in the country and was first in terms of (inaudible), but the lowest levels of vandalism in its most similar family and it was actually improving its position against the national average in December.

That is just a summary of where the Metropolitan Police Service is against the rest of the country.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Thanks very much, Steve [Otter]. So, some very interesting trends there. Some areas where the Metropolitan Police Service is doing well by comparison with other forces, others where we need to catch up.

Sorry, I should have said at the beginning, Julien Vantigham is here from Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service. I did not introduce you. Thank you very much for coming, Julien [Vantigham].

Members of the MOPAC, are there any comments you want to make?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just on context, it would be quite helpful if you have more recent data to set into context because in reality it is quite stark to the end of December but it is six months out of date, frankly. It would be nice to know where some of the more recent trends are against these crime types with similar force groups.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): First of all, I think Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has already acknowledged that it is pretty poor that we are now six to seven months after the data has been produced and we still don't have comparisons because we're going to talk about data today which is relevant for London now. We know that there is this issue about statistical verification, but the fact it takes seven months to verify these things seems to be too long because otherwise it is historical stuff which does not help us.

We do you have iQuanta data which is a slightly different source which is what we use to make the very same comparisons, so it seems odd that there is that sort of publicly available data that the comparisons are not made. So, I think, we will do our best to fill in those gaps and we will share that, but that is publicly available.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Can I just ask about theft from the person again, which is something that we have been on about quite a few times now? It is very interesting looking at this comparison with other forces, other Metropolitan areas where you would expect there to be similar problems to London in terms of people coming and swiping your mobile phone which we think is the major cause of this spike. But, if you look at what is happening in Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire or West Midlands, actually, they are not seeing the same sort of kick upwards in the figures. I just wonder what the explanation for that might be.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I will just probably take it initially and then perhaps Simon [Byrne] might add a little detail. I think this is a really good example of why having that data does not help. I think what we will find is over the last six months in fact we have started to see a spike in theft from person which is around the broad same source(?) is about theft of mobile phones.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): A spike in the other forces?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Yes, in the big cities. Certainly Manchester, Lincoln and Birmingham. If you look at London during the same period we start to see at least that plateau and starting to come down.

So, you are quite right, there is a stark difference up to that point, but after that, it does start to change. I think the only thing we can imagine is that in those cities we start to see a market in that same form that we have all seen in the market here as we have in New York and in London we have started to get on top of it, although there is more to do. We would not say that we have at all relaxed about where we are. So, we start to see a reduction in that. First of all a plateau and then that rise and we start to see a fall partly as a result of targeting the five main boroughs of London and secondly, looking at the market around the stolen phones which account for about 70% - 80% of all those thefts from person.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right. Okay. So, it just took off in London earlier, the problem.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): We think so, yes. Simon [Byrne], I do not know if you have anything to add?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, I mean, again with the caveat that probably Stephen [Otter] remind me of what I can and cannot say publicly about other places because their data has not been released in the public domain.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Yes.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Other dialogue we are having with other big cities, particularly Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham would see in fact rises that have been broadly the same sort of quantity as ours.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): We are sharing tactics with those forces and we have got a conference planned for the autumn where we are bringing the big cities together to look at best practice and how we can help each other because obviously, apart from how you address the crime type, you also need to recognise that this is, in terms of criminality, is not something that is just confined to London and the phone stops at the Greater London boundary and it does not go out of this city. It is how we can co-operate with other forces to reduce the trade in stolen phones as well.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) Can I ask just one very quick question? Forgive me if you have told us this before. If you take out the theft of mobile phones, I am not dismissing that, what is the trend absent?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): In relation to theft from person?

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) Yes.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): We are still seeing pressure in some part. There is a whole part of other crime that sits there, but broadly, the trend would not be as stark mobile phones.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) But it's still going up?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) Even if you extract the data about phones' theft?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, but not as stark.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) No, no, I understand. It is going up even if you take out the mobile phone issue. I think that in future we need to look at the two perhaps distinctly.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The only thing just to correct, Mayor, there is that the HMIC has just pointed out that the iQuanta data I believe was publicly available is only available privately within the police forces to share to compare performance. We find it useful. I think the public would too, but it is a bit confusing for others who are now holding us to account that they have got two sets of figures. One agreed by statisticians to be verifiable from, up until December, and one that we use to see exactly what the questions we are being asked about how trends are developing. So, I think we have it. We have not published. It seems to me that some other quicker publication of verified data is necessary or sharing the data we use with the caveats on it that it is not perfect and it will change a little as it is verified.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay. I do feel very strongly that theft from the person, theft of a mobile phone, it really should not be discounted or in any way minimised as a crime. It is a deeply distressing and infuriating thing, obviously, when people experience this kind of crime. It is good news, Bernard [Hogan-Howe], that you think it is now coming down in London. I did not quite understand the answer to what Jeremy [Mayhew] was saying. Is theft of mobile phones coming down, or is theft from a person overall coming down?

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) What I have understood from the answer is non-mobile theft from the person is going up. This is driven largely by mobile phone theft, if I have understood correctly, but the underlying trend, even if you took out mobile phone theft.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The underlying trend on the slide we have just got displayed shows that the three-month trend is going down whereas the 12 month trend was going up.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): So I think that accords with what the Commissioner said about we had the spike in theft from a person some time ago. It has taken off in other cities more recently, although we cannot see the data yet that you have from iQuanta, but now you are seeing a decline of the whole class because you are getting on top of it but not as much as you would like, but it is starting trending the right way.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I think certainly to answer Jeremy's [Mayhew] point hopefully is that 70% of the theft from person, the rise as well, is down to mobile phones of which 80% or about 70% is down to iPhones. The theft from the person is up by 15% over the last 12 months, so this actually is slowing down that increase, but over the last three months, which these national figures do not include, we have actually seen a reduction of 1.7% in mobile phone thefts. So, we are seeing a rapid rise, started to slow, and it now starts to see a dip over the last three months. These figures do not represent that because they cannot.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay. I have got you. What is the secret of the success that you are having in tackling this? Is it the Operation Ringtone and that kind of thing? How is it working?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): We believe so. Probably I will ask Simon [Byrne] to say something on this. One thing I would like to particularly ask him to talk about is one of the things that is helping. Obviously, we are able to, if somebody has an app on the phone and they can be tracked, that is really helpful. We have picked up lots of people doing that. There is a new app which came about where people can put an app on their phone and if it is stolen, when the thieves first uses it or tries to, it takes a photograph of them and then emails the photograph to the victim or to wherever they want. One of the things we are going to encourage people to do is to do more of that. So, I thought probably in the things he can describe what we have already done to achieve the savings, or reductions, just to flag up that particular app which I think is a good opportunity.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What is the app? The app takes a photograph of the thief, does it?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Yes. So, after it is stolen, as they come to turn it on --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Then emails it to the police. It is very good.

Male Speaker: It emails it back to the owner of the phone.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Hopefully it worked a bit longer. But, anyway, it seems to me to be a good idea and a simple one. Perhaps young people will particularly find it attractive. So, anyway, we are trying lots of things. Probably Simon [Byrne] could talk about what has helped just to explain that particular app and where to find it.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay, that will be kind. Simon [Byrne]?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): The app is actually called I Gotcha.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I Gotcha, yes.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It is not endorsed by the Metropolitan Police Service because we have not actually put it on our website yet, but it does seem to be quite a good piece of innovation. It will take a picture on the phone and some other bits of development since we spoke about this last time I will come onto.

In terms of what we are doing, and obviously there is a slide later, but you will recall that broadly, when we attack a crime type, we concentrate on three things: victims, the offender and where it happened. So Ringtone was the operation we put into place in February. It was concentrated initially on the five most crime prone locations across London for phone crime which was basically in the central area. You will be familiar with Westminster, Camden, Islington, Hackney that sort of nexus.

Since we have started that operation, phone crime in that area is down nearly 10% and we have done that by first of all focusing on those people that we know are at risk. So, a lot of crime prevention work to stop table surfing, a lot of work around licensing where we see high volume premises, enforcing the licensing regulations more strongly to make sure the owner of those premises also act in a responsible way for protecting victims of crime.

In terms of the place, we have increased police patrols both in uniform and in plain clothes in all of those five boroughs and we do that seven days a week. We reflect the pace of that round the night time economy in particular where a lot of the phones are obviously stolen.

Also, in terms of the offenders, we have become a lot better than we were a few months ago at turning round intelligence for the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit into either search warrants which are recovering increasingly large amounts of property, or actually, locally developed intelligent intervention to swiftly respond to information from victims and catching people with phones. So, that has been a particularly positive news story.

We have made nearly 2,000 arrests now since the operation.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): 2,000 arrests.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): 1,794.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Are there gangs of people involved in this?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Broadly, yes. There is different types of modus operandi (MO). You will see either people on mopeds that will snatch phones, particularly around the Islington, Camden area. You will get a lot of sneak theft while people are distracted often in clubs and bars and that is often organised.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Are there kind of Fagan figures who are running groups of people who go out and nick them and then?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): There are.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes. But, gradually, we are running a number of operations to sort of understand the patterns of crime not just across the five boroughs, but in other parts of London. Bromley, for example, recently had a really successful opportunity targeting sneak theft of phones so that the practice we are developing in those five core boroughs we have now extended to another nine and by the end of the month, the whole of the Metropolitan Police Service will be running these practices to attack this particular problem.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Brilliant. Maybe the reason for the rise in other cities is that as we clamp down on it here in London, the Fagans are all going off to ...

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): It would be nice to think so, Mayor, but I am not sure we can claim it. I think the best we can do is to try and make it a hostile environment, particularly in the high-risk hotspots. It is not impossible, but I am not sure we can prove that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): We have also been doing a lot of work behind the scenes, you will remember last time with phone providers. So, we now have data exchange with one of the key providers and also, there will be a new innovation which one of them will introduce in September called a 'kill switch'. It will effectively zap your phone if it is stolen and stop anyone from using it and that is going to be a global change which you will be able to apply to your phone on a software upgrade. So, we anticipate that will have a

significant effect on the stolen goods market once that becomes widely known and used by people that have that phone.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): There was this issue that we highlighted with the reuse of iPhones in particular, wasn't it?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I, with Jules Pipe [Mayor of Hackney], I think you wrote to Apple to say could you make it easier to disable your devices. I was a bit surprised the other day because I had the Mayor of I think Rotterdam and other cities and they said that it was very simple. The devices were disabled as soon as they were stolen and I did not understand why we seem to have a particular problem in London.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I am not quite sure why they will be saying that. Our understanding is we have been doing a lot of with particularly United States (US) forces whose commissioners have been particularly blighted by this problem that the problem with the iPhone is global. This solution is global. I am not aware of European countries having a slightly different approach or solution.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): But this is a positive step following a lot of dialogue with the phone company.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The problem is if I nick an iPhone, right, or if someone nicks my iPhone more plausibly and they take it to an Apple store they can get that iPhone reactivated for their own purposes, can they?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes. But in fairness, Apple are looking at changing their business model so that the phone warranty is changing and also, that they are now starting to supply data to us around suspicious transactions, which gradually should start to give us better intelligence about who is trading in these phones.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Basically, what they will do is the thief has the opportunity to return a faulty phone which is actually a stolen phone and it gets recirculated.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): A quality(?) phone, you say.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The phone is fine, but it is stolen. So they generate a new phone. It is in that way that they keep the market going. That is one of the problems and the other one is one that Simon [Byrne] said at the beginning which is the things need to be turned off when they are stolen so they are no longer of any value to the thief.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): We are getting to the stage where we can do that?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I think September is the date.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): September?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Should be a critical change.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So, from September, if someone nicks my mobile phone, it will be valueless to them?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): If you know when you get on your Apple phone you have got a software upgrade appears in one of your icons and then you have to download the upgrade. Once you do that from September, I cannot give you the exact date yet, but that is the general direction of the company. That will upgrade your phone so that the phone providers can then zap your phone if it is stolen.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Apart from Apple or whoever are doing that for their customers will need to let people know publically they have got to do that. You would think they would anyway, but they need to understand why it is so important.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): They have got to download the app.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) I would just like to say, this is one of those behavioural economics points. Surely you want to take it a step further if possible. I do not mean you but Apple so that that becomes default software rather than something you have to opt into.

Craig Mackey (MPS Deputy Commissioner): It will be for new phones, but as with all of us, the legacy ones it will appear in your little upgrade screen and you select that and you can have it. You download it and then your phone has a kill switch.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): This will basically address the iPhone 4 and 5 and then if a new model comes to the market, that will be hardwired.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay. Good. Good. Jonathon [Glanz]?

Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Just on the figures relating to vandalism and criminal damage, clearly, there has been a marked improvement in the performance there. Do

you have any observations on how that has been achieved and are you confident that that performance is going to be sustained?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Probably Simon [Byrne] can do a little bit of detail. I think there is two things that are linked here for me which is criminal damage is not a bad surrogate(?) talking about antisocial behaviour because the two are linked in volume terms. I think Simon [Byrne] has got the detail about the work we are doing around antisocial behaviour which has also seen significant reductions. If antisocial behaviour gets out of hand you get lots of criminal damage. It is not the only thing that happens, but one of the things.

So, again, it is going back to the old legend which is repeat offenders, locations and victims. The location is where the victim and the offender meet. So, it is about concentrating our efforts on what is a very large volume issue. Where we can use all the legal opportunities to tackle those repeat locations and offenders, then we can usually provide relief to the victims. So, the two really have made an impact.

Criminal damage is a very wide group. It can be from arson where fire is used to damage things and that is a very dangerous thing obviously because it puts life at risk to relatively minor damage to a car. It is such a broad church of things and generally, it is in those two categories. The very serious damage is either life threatening or very costly or relatively minor which is irritating and maybe insured loss. So, those are the two broad categories.

Concentrating on antisocial behaviour, you usually bring the latter group, the volume crime down. The former has usually got a very clear intent if you try and damage property for insurance reasons or for arson for sometimes many reasons. So, I think by concentrating on the volume, that is what tends to help. Simon [Byrne]?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yeah, as the Commissioner said, if you look the comparative figures for the period, over the last 12 months criminal damage has fallen by nearly 16.5%. In the same period, antisocial behaviour is down nearly 20%. So you see a strong correlation.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Extraordinary.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): If the two were out of sync, you would probably be looking a bit harder. I know from work we have been doing closely with the HMI's office you would expect frankly in a big city that criminal damage levels would be higher. We are also pretty anxious that there is not any loss of integrity in the data, so that when someone phones 101 to report antisocial behaviour, if it is criminal damage it is converted into a crime. We have done auditing around that to make sure that we are not losing the confidence of the public in our response.

As you are aware, we launched the new policing model two weeks ago for half of London and this is a good signal piece of work for Safer Neighbourhood policing because this is usually graffiti, bus stop damage; that is what makes up a volume and therefore a strong police presence in communities is good. We have also slightly improved the detection rate for this crime, to nearly 16%

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): 16%?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, in the period. So we are not complacent. Obviously summer months as the schools break up sees lots of young people out on the streets, parks etc, so we have got a campaign running over the summer to address that. The enforcement phase of that began last week. For example, in the first week across London we have already had 200 separate incidents of seizing alcohol, predominantly from young people.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Questions want to be asked but I think that final point, Simon [Byrne], is really important: that if you concentrate on alcohol control, appropriate within the legislation, it has a real impact. I know Simon's [Byrne] really pushed both on what I call on-license at pubs and clubs, and off-licenses and through supermarkets or whatever. That if you get large amounts of sales to young people often that will drive antisocial behaviour and then criminal damage. So by concentrating on the alcohol control and making sure it is appropriate, it will make a difference. Then secondly, you have got the 24 hour licensing in pubs and clubs and again they should be responsibly supplied alcohol and if you keep the controls right, together with local authorities, then it can really have an impact.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The controls on alcohol?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Yes, at the end of the day the license is a privilege not a right and the people who have that privilege have got a responsibility that go with it and they have to be kept to them. They run the risk of losing that license if they sell to drunks or sell to people underage. They should be controlling it in an appropriate way and by us working with the local authorities who are now the licensing bodies then we can make sure that they are held to account for the privilege of the license.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I think that is incredibly important because I bet alcohol has a big role in all this stuff.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I think particularly young people. It is not saying that there have always been people who drink under the age of 18, but it has a disproportionate effect on the behaviour of younger people.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes. Good. Steve [O'Connell]?

Steve O’Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): I was simply stuck on the comments of the Mayor of Melbourne on that particular point. I am not sure you would be able to replicate his powers, the way he was managing to have quite a heavy hand on licensing hours in Melbourne. I think he was closing everything down after 1.00am; I am not commending that but

Steve O’Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): That was interesting I thought. While we are on the subject, particularly on neighbourhood crimes, which is the parcel of seven, which we have already touched on one or two of them. The figures are going in the right direction. I often bang on about burglary and motor vehicle crime and they are going in the right direction. However, burglary, perhaps, is not going at the pace that you would like, Simon [Byrne], particularly. I was particularly picking up on your point around the introduction of a Local Policing Model. I mean, there will be a significantly increased number of officers going into the teams in June just gone and now in October and I know that you will be instructing them around problem solving, crime reduction, in those areas. So, I would be expecting next time we visit these figures, particularly on burglaries and neighbourhood crimes to see an even bigger decrease in those crimes. Would you like to comment how you expect your team to be able to do that, Simon [Byrne]?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes, a few things. If you just look at a snapshot, because half of London, if you like, went live two weeks ago, Merton

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Live?

Steve O’Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): In the Local Policing Model (LPM)

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): In the new policing model, as it were, which we have obviously discussed, which is the investment principally in neighbourhood policing. Merton joined after we let them off for Wimbledon, so once Andy Murray had done his work we let them catch up. I think it is a good point. I can give you a snapshot over the first couple of weeks.

If you took two comparative boroughs of similar size, in the first bit where there is a correlation between police activity and police strength, you would see one borough had 70 people, 76 people out on a shift in an afternoon period in the north east of London. A comparable borough in the north of London, post the new model, had 130. So working in the same way there is been a shift to get officers out in the places that the public want them most. That should start to see more preventive patrol and I have got lots of little anecdotes of swift action, responding to members of the public, even in the first couple of weeks of this, which is fantastic.

A great example is in Tower Hamlets where we stopped an indecent exposure and then recovered a load of mobile phones within an hour from information coming in from the public, simply because we had officers available to respond to that information.

In terms of the direct challenge, obviously the burglary one you mentioned, the trend is falling. We are nearly at target now.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The trend in burglary is falling?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes. Overall crime is down. From when we last spoke, the effort we are putting into it, we have done a lot of work around burglary in homes and are catching up in burglary in businesses. Probably an anachronism in terms of what makes up the figures that people might not realise, in the proportion of crime that is not in a home, 55% of it is in a shed. The current crime wave, if you like, in that bit, is basically people buying increasingly high value bikes, because of the boom in cycle riding, and putting their £10,000 bike in a wooden shed with a £2.50 lock on the door, so that we are now doing an increasing amount of crime prevention work, just in case you had any personal interest in this.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Really? I take mine inside.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Well, that is good. It is either to keep it off the street

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): My wife objects because it blocks the door.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): It would be good advice, frankly, because we are seeing a number of operations running across London targeting bike crime, if you like, but because of the definition of crime it might seem counterintuitive, but a shed is captured by burglary.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): If you enter a shed you are a burglar?

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Yes. I will not get into convictions, which we will come on to later, but in terms of crime recording a shed counts as a burglary.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Good.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Particularly, again in summer months, there is always a vulnerability there but we want to make sure that as we are getting more officers into these teams, we now start to understand the stolen markets around bikes and crime prevention for sheds, because there is probably some easy wins.

A similar picture with vehicle crime where in different parts of London there are different types of vehicles being stolen. So there is not one type of car that is driving some changes in vehicle crime although broadly the trend is down, but it ranges from sort of scooters in Islington to Ford

Galaxies out in Barking and Dagenham. So again we are looking locally at the changes in patterns of crime and then police response to that.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Can I just take the point Steve [O'Connell] makes about the neighbourhood teams, I think what we need to be clear is why it will help around burglary, because you raised that link between lower crime. I think where it will help is getting better intelligence about who committed a crime. I think there are just two other things to keep in mind. A lot of the detections broadly 18% of the burglars we arrest when we catch them at the scene. If we get there quick enough we catch them. Another thing is that a lot of the detections are around forensics, so that more local officers would not necessarily increase that detection. The detectives have got to be good at, first of all, scene preservation and then dealing with the forensic recovery.

The final one, which makes the first point about the neighbourhood teams getting better intelligence, is sometimes a challenge in London when 29% of our overall offenders are foreign national offenders. It is not as straightforward as it might be in a local village in Wales or wherever to identify the local offender who often is living within a mile of the burglary victim. I think the mobility of people in London, within the city and across the national borders, is a bigger challenge. We can do something about it, so I just want to be clear about the new teams. I think will be really helpful but they are not the entire answer.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes, I understand. In the shires and the villages they may actually know the sort of guys and girls that may be committing those and someone will just finger them and off you will go and nick them. In London that is a lot different.

My last point really is about the connectivity between the figures in the seven neighbourhood crimes and confidence, because obviously we are heading in the right direction, getting the neighbourhood crimes down by 20%, but as you pressurise those down and get the team stocked up and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the visibility, that will also improve the confidence, which is also a target that we are seeking. As I said earlier, crimes like burglary and vandalism and vehicle crime do affect the confidence out in the neighbourhood. I mean, if you get drilled down on that we will find the confidence figure also going up.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): First of all, although our confidence figures are broadly the same over the last two years, I think the Deputy Mayor has actually highlighted what has happened is the rest of the country has gone down in some areas. Therefore we have risen up the table although we have stayed broadly the same in terms of confidence.

The second thing we have all got to keep an eye on is that confidence is a complex mix. In this city we have had some great challenges over the last few weeks about some legacy issues around the undercover deployments, were they against the [Stephen] Lawrence family and a few other things that are coming back now. They do have an impact on confidence.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): They feed into it, no question.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I think we have got to bear that in mind. I think it is entirely right that the neighbourhood model is a good bulwark to improve confidence but so many factors come into it we cannot ignore that.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Again my last point, I was at a very good presentation by the Chief Inspector of Sutton about the LPM, which was delivered in Sutton a couple of weeks ago. There was a very large residents' association meeting, I do not know, 200 people, and then he presented a great presentation, a good story to tell, and you almost felt the confidence in the room rising by just a feeling that the LPM is going to bring back the numbers. If we get it right I think we will see crime going down and confidence going up now.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The final batch of neighbourhoods will be in place by the end of September, into October. So, then we will have to embed it in. I think it is a good investment for all of us.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Just on the confidence point, one thing I do think is worth getting over to the public and I know that I have said this to you before, Bernard [Hogan-Howe], I had a fantastic presentation, actually Steve [O'Connell] and I went to see the CO19 team, the armed response units, and the statistics that show the restraint with which officers behave in those contexts. If you look at the number of operations that they are sent out on compared to the number of times a weapon is actually discharged, let alone somebody being hurt, London really compares outstandingly well with any other city. It is just that kind of stuff that we should be getting over somehow to the public. I do not think people it was complete news to me

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I did not arrive prepared to talk about this particularly so if I get this slightly wrong I hope people will understand, but it is something of the order of 4,000 firearms deployments a year. We actually draw weapons four or five times a day, but these are for planned operations where you go into someone's home and you have a weapon available. It is drawn in that sense, not you are going to confront somebody in the street. I think, last year, we actually fired the weapons twice.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Of course every one is a serious incident; nobody wants it to happen but we remain a unarmed(?) police force, often dealing with people who have guns before we arrive.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I think it is incredibly important. We shall move on to criminal justice in a minute but, Stephen [Greenhalgh]

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Obviously broadly things are going in the right direction, but because of the interest in stop and search there is one thing I wanted to just probe before we move on.

On violence with injury, which is trending the right way, notice that Lambeth is heading up the table, whereas Southwark, which is a similar crime profile, not identical, is heading down the table in relative terms. I noticed in a separate presentation, information that you supplied, that the number of stops and searches in Lambeth basically halved in number, from about 20,000 in the last year to 10,000, whereas in Southwark it is broadly the same but the arrest rate was broadly similar. I am just interested in any correlation and the differences in policing approaches in two, well, not identical boroughs, but where we are seeing perhaps a potentially relative rise, although it is a reduction in percentage terms, a relative rise in Lambeth, so that is so that I was a bit

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): If I talk about the general and then perhaps if Simon [Byrne] talks particularly about Southwark and Lambeth. HMIC recently produced a report about stop search although the figures only included 2011 to 2012, it did not include the latest year, which is what I am going to concentrate on, for fairly obvious reasons.

Over the last year we reduced our stop search in London by a third and yet at the same time serious violence against young people under 25 came down by 29% and stabbings came down by 20%. So even though we did less stop search

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Except in Lambeth.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): we still showed a reduction in this type of crime, generally, across the board. The second issue, as you know, with stop search, although again the HMIC report did not concentrate on this, was about proportionality, which in this city is really a big issue and we have seen during that time that our proportionalities are better. It is not perfect by any means, and by that I mean that if you are an Asian person you are now broadly about as likely to be stopped as if you are white. Now, post 9/11 there was a

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That is a big change.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): -- terrible distortion, which we have been trying to remedy since. If you are a black person then you are still 2.4 times more likely to be stopped, but that has improved from 4.4.

We are not saying it is perfect but I think we are showing the right direction. I am then going to one of Stephen's [Greenhalgh] points, which is about how effective are they when they are carried out. What we found this year is broadly we would arrest people, just between 8-9%. Of all the ones we did, 500,000, we would broadly arrest between 8-9%. We have increased that

to 15%. So we have done less, we have got more effective at the stops. Then finally, the number of complaints we have had has reduced too. We have come down from, I think it is about 1,200 complaints a year out of the 500,000 to about 900-odd for the 350,000.

I think at all levels we can show that we have got better, not perfect. We are still doing a fair number of stop searches. The final thing to put into the mix is that the section 60 stop searches, in which an area which is declared by a senior police officer because of a problem, which can almost be random stop searching in that area, we have reduced those by 95%.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): 95%?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): It was the Deputy Commissioner who highlighted that compared to the rest of the country we were doing a very high number of section 60s and it was actually having a contradictory effect.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): You think that was having a bad effect on

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Well, I think there were two things. I think it was getting a little, how do you describe it; to me it became the tick-box answer to a serious violence problem. The question you are asking us, what are you doing about serious violence, and the local borough commanders felt a compunction to put a section 60 in. The corollary is the more you have the less you do, because you cannot police these things. You cannot do everything with that. So if you have one you can police it well but if you have ten you can police it badly. The idea was get less, do them more appropriately and therefore reduce the random stop search in those areas.

We feel the combination of factors together with all the training we have put in already, and more to come, we think has had a profound effect, but probably if Simon [Byrne] could mention the comparison that the Deputy Mayor raises between Lambeth and Southwark.

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): Okay, a couple of things. Overall, I have not got detailed figures for each borough in terms of stop search with me, so that is data I can bring you separately because that covers presumably you have some data, so that is something I will speak to you at the end of the meeting. What I can say though, in relation to the violent crime picture, when you go to the table on your screen, firstly, if you take Lambeth and the period that we are looking at, the violent crime has now fallen 5% this time of the year compared to where it was in the same period last year. In Southwark it is down 15%. Now if you take Lambeth, for example, the trend across London, is what we call public place violence, is falling. So that is basically fights in the street, again often linked to night time economy and alcohol. In the case of Lambeth they have been particularly concentrating on Brixton(?) town centre in the period that you have been looking at and crime here is down 10% following an operation there.

In Southwark they have been running an operation called Trinity, which is focusing not just violent crime but street robbery as well, because there is an overlap in the Elephant and Castle area. They have both been looking at their most chronic hotspot and then putting police effort into those two hotspots.

The issue around stop search I will just have to get a better explanation for you, but I have not got that detail today. I think you remember that on previous occasions we have noticed the anomaly between two boroughs that are next door to each other, where the pattern of stop search is unusually different and that has been a reflection, I think, of the direction from the local teams, which we have brought to their attention. For example, knife sweeps using search arches in prime crime locations would be an example where one borough was doing more than the other. So part of our job, as we sit here today, my deputy Mark Simmons is running crime fighters in another part of London where that sort of information is shared with the borough commanders to understand why there is a difference.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The only thing I would add to what Simon [Byrne] has said, well, we have avoided, we have stopped, any suggestion that we are setting targets for stop search, because it drives perverse behaviour. The idea is to stop search somebody who deserves stop searching, not to meet a target. So we have tried to avoid that. I think it is a very fair question, I am sure Simon [Byrne] will get to the bottom of it and it may just be down to stop search arches, I do not know, but we will ask it.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Good. Okay. Any more questions on

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just a comment before we move on to criminal justice. Last year, at this meeting last year, this is an annual event, we looked at how many crimes you solved and broadly speaking you were looking to drive up the sanction detection rates and looking at the figures there is nothing particularly trending the wrong way, but it is fair to say it looks fairly flat. There are some areas where it is going up but I think you were looking broadly to raise the levels to about a third over four years. Any comments on where we are with regard to detections?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): There is probably one effect which to some extent explains the flatness but not entirely. As the crime types come down then numerically you tend to get less detections. If I was to concentrate on something I would want to see improvement on this year that would be one area. I think there is a structural problem I have mentioned already, when you have foreign national offenders, if they are not on the DNA database, they are not on the fingerprint database, there is something in London about detecting that type of crime. The second thing is the one we talked about earlier: if you are not in a village and you do not notice someone is unusual in the area, it is more of a challenge to detect. However, we have got advantages. We have got a great CCTV system and one of the things we are starting on is to make CCTV and facial recognition a forensic science. We have

got a forensic science in fingerprints and DNA, we have not got the same determinative strategic approach to CCTV and facial recognition.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Really? Is that the future? You mean the camera would take a picture of you and you will be able to

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The big thing we have got, if you took the analogy with fingerprints, when we arrest somebody we do three things, apart from interview them. We take their fingerprints, we take their DNA and we take their picture. Then the fingerprints and the DNA we compare with a database of scenes of crime and you get a very quick answer: it is either their DNA or it is not, their fingerprint or it is not. If we take a scene of crime CCTV image of a face it is not as easy to make that comparison with all the digital images we have of the 300,000 people we arrest every year. So we have now got literally millions of suspect images, but it is pretty hard to compare them with all the scenes of crime images. There are some simple things we can all do and we are developing a strategy within the next few months. For example, you might even see it in this room, most of the CCTV cameras in public and private spaces have been placed high. They have been there to cover a large space to see criminal behaviour as they have travelled, run away, and try to get an image of the offender. However, for facial recognition to work it needs to see your face, very directly. So one strategic thing we can all do is to change the position of the camera we already own, whether it be private or public, and get it down at face level. So, if you are going to enter a pub, if you are going to enter a betting shop, that is the image we need. Then we can give a better hit rate against the existing database of images we have taken exactly at face level in the custody suite(?).

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Amazing.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): So that is point one. Point two is we need to improve the software that is available, so that is why I say it is a forensic science. We, the police, need to get better but I think we need to get the message out to the public; you bought a camera, if you can put it in the right place. They are relatively cheap now. If you can, put another one in and then we have got an image we can compare. We do have some facial recognition which works pretty well but if it only takes the top of your head or the side of your ear, we get a lower hit rate. At the moment we are getting a relatively low hit rate of 10-15% but if we can get the original image from the scene of the crime right, we will improve that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Ears are probably quite distinctive actually.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Well, there is one case though where somebody did get convicted on the back of an ear. I think it got turned over on appeal, but it worked once.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Sorry, Steve [Otter], I know you did the report into stop and search?

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): Yes. Well, I actually wanted to make a point about the last three months. I have been thinking of a way in which I could reflect the improvement in performance at the Metropolitan Police Service without using the data. So I will try, because I do share the Commissioner's frustration with this. There are rules that I think do get in the way but if you look at the performance of the Metropolitan Police Service in the seven areas to the end of the December, then actually it was reducing, it had the lowest reductions in five out of the seven areas but it did not have the best reduction in any. If you now look at the data to the end of May, and I am not using the data but I can say that it is only in two areas where it is the lowest and in three it is the best. It has actually moved to a position where it is having the best reductions out of its most similar family.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That is very interesting. In all the seven

Stephen Otter (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary): I think it is fair, we need to be clear that there has been a real change in the last three months, the Commissioner is absolutely right. In terms of theft from person, which is of concern, there is now one force that has a bigger increase than the Metropolitan Police Service. I think it is important in that context.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Stephen [Otter] that is very helpful.

Okay, well I think on that note we should probably conclude the discussion on the performance which, I am sorry, took more time than I intended but it was extremely interesting. Get on to criminal justice. Stephen [Greenhalgh], why don't you kick us off with that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The purpose is to make sure we are on the same page with regard to current levels of performance and this should not take too long because I think most of the discussion should be about how we effect change. I mean, Mayor, you set a challenge to London's Criminal Justice System to see a 20% cut in court delays over four years. It is fair to say that in the first slide London continues to perform poorly in this regard when we compare to national figures. In fact we see essentially more days taken on average from the date of the offence to the end of the criminal justice process and the figures that we published in your first plan for London were at 168 days on average and now that has, I believe, in the last financial year, gone up to 174 days. It looks like it is the time from offence to the charge which is the longest element of that. That is now 96 days, so close to 100 days from the date of the offence to charge is a considerable part of the length of time that it takes. So it looks at this moment that we are trending the wrong way with regard to reducing court delays.

If we look at the next slide, I think it is important to look at the kind of volume. I mean, is it the number of cases that are being heard, particularly in the magistrates' courts, you can see from

this chart the vast majority of cases go through the magistrates' courts but it seems, certainly on the data that we have, that although there was a peak in the numbers of cases around the time of the riots in September 2011, the number of cases has been declining in the magistrates' courts, declining steadily, and we have also seen decreases in the crown courts. So, we cannot really look to the number of cases being the reason for the delays.

If we look at the next slide, I think it is always nice, as we do when we look at crime patterns across London, to look at different criminal justice areas and it is fair to say that this data that take us to the end of the financial year, so end of March 2013, seem to indicate a particularly poor picture in east London and some more positive signs in north-east London and in south-west London. It would be interesting to know from colleagues what is driving those differences.

Finally, if I could just take the next slide on magistrates' courts, this is now the volume business and this is very much giving us a picture through to March 2013. This is why I find all this very, very confusing, because if I look at the areas that were good on this particular chart, that we look at the three months to March 2013, then the reverse seems to be happening to the annual trends. We have real problems in south-west London, where we want a salute for doing so well, because it looks like the length of time for each case is going up, and if we looked at east London where we had an absolute disaster with a 25% increase, that seems to be doing better.

So, the trends are not uniform even when you break down to local areas. Overall there is no doubt that we are seeing, instead of a reduction, swifter justice, we are actually seeing slower justice in London. So, we really need to understand whether these are the figures, that they are accepted and also what it is going to take to turn those things around.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): All right, Steve [Greenhalgh], what for you is the key statistic that you think that we should be trying to focus on?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The key statistic is that we were looking to reduce the court delays by 20%, so from about 170 days down by 20%, and at the moment it is going up the wrong way. So the key statistic is this particular one: it is going the wrong way. It compares poorly with the rest of the country on every measure. We can take out motoring offences, we can take out cut it any way we like, the length of time that it takes in the court delays have gone worse, from arrest to the end of the process.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Adrian?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): It is actually from the offence to the completion of the case. So, cases such as sexual offences or fraud, the lead-in time before arrest is very great, so there is a sort of 400-day time period in a fraud case, on average, between the offence taking place and the actual charging of the offence, because they are complicated to investigate.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes. So if you had lots of frauds going on in London that might disproportionately affect your delay?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Also in sexual offences. If you have a high proportion of sexual offences than national average

If I can give some other contexts, these figures relate to all the criminal cases in the courts. Of course the Metropolitan Police Service and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are not responsible for all of those cases because there are other things, certainly in the magistrates' court, such as TV licences, bus and tube offences that are not our responsibility. But in terms of a proxy measure, I understand it is a useful measure. I do not recognise 174 days. We have got 170 days being the latest information from the Ministry of Justice website, so the table just below the top table is the one we would say is accurate.

To put some more context around the Crown Court figures, because they are included in those, London has a 28% contested trial rate, the highest in the country, and therefore that feeds into the trials taking place in the Crown Court obviously takes longer and that feeds into the figures. The area with the lowest contested rate is the north-east, they have a 10% contested trial rate. They have the lowest number of days. I think they are something like 145 days, out of all the areas. There is a direct correlation between the Crown Court trials taking many months to happen and the figures that you see before you.

So if London has a richer mix of more serious and sensitive crime. That does feed directly into the figures so it is quite challenging to reduce it. I am not saying it cannot take place at all but we do face, certainly in the crime bit or element of it, the indictable either way element. It is challenging to bring some of that down.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That is extremely interesting. I had no idea. Why does London have more frauds and sex offences proportionately than other parts of the country?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): In terms of prosecution? I am not sure I have the data in terms of whether they do or not. My impression is they do.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): We have a higher percentage of what we call class 1 and 2 cases, so homicide, fraud, and sexual cases. We have a higher percentage than the rest of the country.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): We have a higher percentage of the kinds of cases from the commission of the offence to the resolution of the case, is that right?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): It is not sufficient to explain the differences between the different areas because within that overall picture, it is clearly changing in very different ways.

Julien Vantghem (Justices' Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Well, perhaps I can take the point in relation to the figures, first of all, in the caseload mix. Obviously, the most serious cases are charged by the police so within that period of time, the peak there during the riots, out of the 68,000 cases, 22,000 cases proceeded by way of charge. They are the most serious cases. The other cases are the vehicle exercise licence cases. They are cases that proceed by way of charge. Traffic cases --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What kind of cases?

Julien Vantghem (Justices' Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): The vehicle exercise licence. You do not pay your road tax, you will be prosecuted by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Transport of London (TfL) are prosecuting for bus and fare evasion, and about 35% of our caseload mix are what we call summary traffic work. There are variances because we have changed the way we brigade our work in London. Between 2011 and 2012, we undertook some fundamental listing changes, which were undertaken at the same time when we closed eight magistrates' courts in London. Previously, a general mix of all work would go into a local courthouse that will deal with one or two boroughs. When we closed the courthouses, we reduced the number of local justice areas, the judicial areas, the unit by which we work, and we created trial and remand centres to aid our Criminal Justice System (CJS) partners with the way they work. So instead of probation having to produce a probation officer to each and every court, they only needed to produce a probation officer where the charged cases would go in for those first appearances.

So at the same time as well, we reduced the specialist courts that would deal with road traffic, the gateway traffic courts of which London is the leader nationally in developing these specialist courts. We reduced those from eight down to five and we also changed their locations. So, for example, in north-east London, they had a gateway traffic court. We shifted that to Waltham Forest, which became a specialist traffic court, and that is in a different area. So north-east lost their gateway work. The gateway work went into east London.

That explains the shift because what we call the bulk work, the less serious work, the summons type work, the traffic work, that work shifted. As far as our priorities are concerned, this sheet will tell you our priorities are on the most serious type of cases, the indictable either way cases and the cases that are going to the Crown Court, where we have approved performance.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Julien [Vantghem], if I can just try to clarify that in my head? You are not saying that the closure of the magistrates' courts is in any way exacerbating the problem of the delays, no?

Julien Vantghem (Justices' Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): No, what I am explaining is the shift in the chart that you have there with north-east London suddenly improving and east London deteriorating is because of the way we have shifted our work. Traffic cases take a lot longer. If somebody is charged by the police, they might be charged by the police today and they might appear in the court between 7 to 14 days' time. Somebody commits a road traffic offence, because of the way our process currently works, it proceeds by way of summons, it can take up to six months to lay a summons and bring those cases because that is what the law permits.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) I think if I have followed you rightly, this may mean that the evidence about the different patterns in different areas of London may not be apples for apples and so on. However, can I just go back to Faith's [Boardman] question? You may not be able to answer it here but if you did what business analysts call a piece of variance analysis, can you explain the difference between the time from offence to completion simply by means of the different structure of the case load? If you cannot answer that question, we need to understand whether the difference between London and other bits of the country is explained by that case load or is not.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): You mean by the different types of crime that are included?

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) Yes, because if it is not, if we cannot answer that question, we need to be able to answer that question and if it is not explained by that, we will need to understand why it is taking longer than elsewhere. We cannot just accept. I am sorry. The premise behind it is these lengths of time between offence and completion look to at least some of us unacceptable. I think what we are pressing you to do is to understand, (a), whether you agree that they are unacceptable and, (b), to share in the way in which we can bring them down. In that context, I would particularly point to, for example, the speech by the Police Minister on Monday about further co-operation within the Criminal Justice System.

So we need to understand the analysis. We need to understand the source of the variance and we need to have a shared commitment in getting this down by the 20% that we agreed sometime ago.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right, I think I understand. The question is: is there any other reason than the reasons that you have already given?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The interesting thing on the chart is if you just take one category like motoring offences, which is the same so there is no case mix factor at all, London is ten days slower than the nation. On indictable offences, it is also ten days slower. There may be a case mix issue there but, broadly speaking, it is always ten days slower so what can we do to improve that position?

Julien Vantghem (Justices' Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Within London, it is unfortunate that we have the mix of the work. Well, I think it was far better to drill it down to the charged type cases. Within London, our summary motoring cases, the way we restructured the gateway work, we have had delays that have built up in those cases. Our anticipated guilty plea rate was about 7%. The guilty pleas that are coming through are about 11%. That is partly because of increased awareness. People looking up on the internet what they believe the defence is according to the law. I was in one of our courthouses the other week dealing with these cases, advising magistrates, and somebody had clearly looked something up on the internet and they were being quite persistent in maintaining their not guilty plea. We have to list that matter for a trial.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The offender, what did he look up on the internet?

Julien Vantghem (Justices' Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): This is an offence of driving whilst using a mobile phone and saying, "Well, I am using it for sat-nav. Therefore, I am not guilty of the offence". Actually, they are guilty of the offence because they are using their equipment for wireless telegraphy. It is an example of which you have unrepresented people who are looking up the law. There is a greater awareness, they think, of what the position is and it is driving our not guilty plea rates up. We have a higher not guilty plea rate.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): I understand that but is that unique to London? I understand that there is more range for the amateur lawyer to try to argue and the information technology (IT) is helping that, but why is that different in London to elsewhere? The point we are really trying to get to here is why is the performance in London overall apparently that much worse than in other areas of the country?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Even when you look down at the type of offence.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): Whichever way you look at it, it is worse.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Well, I think Julien was trying to give an answer, which is that Londoners are more bolshie and self-confident and want to contest things.

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): I worked in Geordie land for five years. They were pretty bolshie up there.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): I worked in Geordie land too and actually I came from the north east a year ago where performance, particularly in the Crown Court, is, as you say, much faster but the other thing is, you cannot

just look at speed in isolation. You have to look at what is effective, what is not effective on the day, and how many people plead guilty. London is just different. I came with all the aspirations to do something about timeliness and get things through faster, and I can say that at the court level, we do not do anything hugely different in London from what we do in the north east, but the guilty plea rate is completely different. So, in London, in the Crown Court, we have 10,000 cases go to trial. In the north east, it is 5,000 but half of those are effective in London so half of our trials or more buck the national trend and go to trial. So what we have to do --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Because all these Londoners are deciding they are not guilty and chancing their arm, is that it?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Yes. Well, the figures show that more people in London have effective trial.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Linda [Duncan], what does the data show? Sorry, just hear from Linda [Duncan] for a second.

Linda Duncan (Chair of MOPAC, MPS Audit Panel): Well, I think the overall point when I looked at all of this data is that it shows conflicting information, and one of the huge problems we had in pulling this together was access to the right information. We have heard this morning lots of data being bandied around in terms of percentages and performances. I think the underlying issue for us is that to enable us to meet this 20% cut in court delays, we need to really get underneath some of the underlying causes for this, whether it is volume and having some breakdown on the information about volume of cases, whether it is Crown Court or whether it is Magistrates' Court, and then also by category of case, and what looks like a norm and what is an exception for a norm by category of case, so that we can start to really analyse the data and understand where the delays are and whether there is a good reason for it and, if not, what do we need to be changing in order to speed and improve the level of delay.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): What we need to call it is not court delay but is Criminal Justice System delay.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes, that is right. That is clear.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member): We are talking about the whole system.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): We are but it does not present as that and I think we do not have the whole picture.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Can we move to the slide on trial effectiveness because we understand we want swifter justice and we all accept that. We also do want surer justice so if we just move through this, this is going to be the other part. On

the surer justice, on trial effectiveness, very clearly, the ministerial points, Damien Green's [Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice] point that on any given day in the country, less than one in two trials go ahead as planned, also applies, as I see it, to London if the effective trial wait in the large volume area in the magistrates' courts is less than 50%. That is true, is it not?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): So for 15% of the cases we list in the Crown Court in London, 15% of all the cases will not go ahead on the day that they were planned.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): They call it a cracked trial?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): No, that is an ineffective trial so we have convened the court, we have the jury, we have the judge, we have everybody else, prosecution, defence, probation, whoever, and everybody is ready to go and for some reason, it does not happen. That is an ineffective trial.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What kind of reason might there be for that?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): The biggest reason in London, and 300 trials did not go ahead in the Crown Court this year is because the prosecution witness was absent.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Okay, we have the detail on this slide, Sheila [Proudlock], and it shows a more positive picture on surer justice in the Crown Court than the national picture, but that is not the volume business. In the Magistrates' Court, it is showing a picture where the effective trial rate is essentially in line with the national, within a couple of percentage points. But in both cases, if you take the reasons for things not going ahead as planned, it is getting close to 20%. So one in five are either down to court reasons, which must be some kind of listing issue, prosecution reasons, or prosecution witness non-attendance. So there is an element of that which is down to essentially the State and how it proceeds based on the data that we have here.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Yes, listing is quite a difficult balance because we do not want to just list one trial, one case in one courtroom, because the time limits would go out of the window. So we have to take some risks and try to take into account the fact that there is going to be some ineffectiveness there, are the defendants going to plead guilty? So we have to balance, and sometimes we get that wrong, and it is a very difficult thing to do. But we need to look at prosecution witness attendance. The second biggest reason is the defendant does not turn up.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The defendant does not turn up?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right, well, that is no good. Why does the defendant not turn up? Is he not under arrest?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): It is quite nice after we have had lots of questions for an hour to have our colleagues over here trying their best to answer on behalf of the Criminal Justice System, but I think one of the things that was pointed out is that in considering this issue, we are looking at the outcome. Is it good or bad? But I think in looking at whether we collectively are going to improve this, what we have to consider is the various parts of process. So, first of all, offence happens, how quickly do we arrest? There are various reasons why we do not arrest immediately but we need to know what the broad time is. The second thing is then how quickly do we charge assuming the persons committed the offence at least to a reasonable standard. So that is the second issue and also there are things like bail which we monitor. Then we have to decide how quickly, having been charged, we get to the court of whatever type, whether it is Crown Court or it is Magistrates' Court, and the more we look at that chain, the more we will understand where the tensions lie. Some are entirely within the work(?) of each of our agencies and some of it lies with our conjunction of effort.

One of the things, for example, we are responsible for is: is the product at the end of the day of the right quality? We work together with CPS on building that quality but we have to start it well and then we have to work together to improve it. If we do not do that in a timely way, either we do not do it quickly or CPS do not advise us quickly, we will let each other down. So I think unless we understand that chain, it really is difficult to make progress in this area.

Could I just make one other point? One of the things that drives the very point about cracked trials and whether or not there are early guilty pleas and this is one of the fundamental problems in all of this, is that and there is no mention in here of early guilty pleas as a test of the system. An early guilty plea will take the time out of the system, and one of the biggest motivations for somebody pleading guilty is a discount for having done it. Why would I do it otherwise? Because it will delay justice. The witnesses might wander off. I might get a lower sentence eventually, should they find me because I have not turned up for the first two hearings.

So one of the things I will really keep an eye on for me, overall is, are the early guilty pleas coming in and, if not, why not. This is where it gets a little sensitive, finally, because one of the groups not represented here is the sentencing group, that is the judges and magistrates. They have to make a decision on each case but, of course, there are guidelines as to getting early guilty pleas with a proportionate discount that is consistent. If 8.4 million people do not hear that consistent message, it will not change their behaviour.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So they need to have a message that an early guilty plea will make sense for you?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The courts and the CPS maybe in a better position to give you exactly the sort of guidelines that are there (overspeaking)

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): (overspeaking) do the right thing, be good to yourself.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Well, if I am imprisoned for five years, broadly

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Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Say again.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): If I know that, broadly on the sentencing guidelines my solicitor advised me, "You will get a five-year term here should you plead guilty". But if he only says, "As a result of an early plea, you get a 30% discount", I might change my plea knowing that I have done it, not change it because I know I did not do it, but in the event that I know I did do it and they were likely to prove it, I may change my plea and make it an early one if somebody gives me a discount for not wasting the court's and people's time for a year or six months.

So where that is consistently applied, the criminal hears it and they make rational decisions. If they hear an inconsistent message, they are likely to take their chances and abuse the system, we would say, for the victim. I think it is a really important thing to keep an eye on for all of us. It is not always easy to effect but it is really important to consider.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): What we have done in the Crown Court in March is well actually, the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales has put it into every Crown Court an early guilty plea scheme. So from March this year, every Crown Court in London will have the same timetabling, which will actually help the prosecution and the defence to know at what stage things are going to happen, so they are working to the same timetable. We have also engaged with the defence to put the onus on them to make sure the defendants know what discount on sentence they get at each stage in the process, so a-third, a-quarter, and a-tenth is what they get depending on where in the process they plead guilty. I am hoping that that will show some really good results in the next year.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I think that leads to too fine a judgment and I think you either get a third off offer early or you get nothing, in my simple view, but it is a fine judgment.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So that is the message. We need to get it out loud and clear to London's criminal fraternity in order to speed the whole thing up and get it through.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): And make the work of the prosecution and defence proportionate so that you do not build files unnecessarily when there is going to be a guilty plea on the day.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): I think it is important to remember that somewhere between 65% and 70% of all criminals or defendants going into the Crown Court plead guilty at some point. It is a question of not waiting --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): 65%?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): 65% and 70%. It is a bit lower in London but, nationally, it is 68%.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Londoners have a keen sense of their innocence.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): I cannot overestimate the cost of resourcing, police time in terms of building a case up to being trial-ready compared to an early plea in the Crown Court. It is massive for us.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Just thinking out loud, could it also be that in London, there is a greater number of solicitors and so on who will encourage you to defend and help you? Why are people entering these not guilty pleas the whole time?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Well, some of it is down to us. I would have to put our hands up. If we do not run an efficient system, the defendants will try to play the system for as long as possible, hoping that witnesses will not turn up, the papers will not be ready.

So we have been putting quite a lot in place together with the Metropolitan Police Service in terms of the quality and the timeliness of the files over the last six months to try to improve that, to make sure that the file we receive and get to the court is of a decent quality. That allows the defence to actually take proper instructions and to advise their client in the right way. We are also working with the courts to have case management panels in relation to court case progression hearings over the phone.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): When?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Before the trials to make sure the trials that are coming up in two weeks' time are well-prepared, everything is ready, witnesses are all ready to go. So we are beginning to get into some of the remedies that we hope will reduce the time period by working together. We are not there yet so

there is still much to do and the case progression hearings are just starting in the last couple of months. The Criminal Justice Board have instigated those and we have been working with the Metropolitan Police Service since November. I think the Commissioner mentions this time last year around having intrusive performance data that we look at between ourselves.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Intrusive, did you say?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Yes, so we

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Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): How is it intrusive performance data?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): In terms of not just providing the data to our staff but actually talking to them about what it means, making sure we analyse it, and trying to make improvements based on the data and doing it together.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay. There is a case of always getting beaten up about it and we cannot discuss it, I suppose, in any particular detail but it is this Operation Alice business, where the people say, "Why is it taking so long? Is it with the police or is it with the CPS?" and nobody seems to know. In general terms, what is the explanation, as it were, for that kind of delay? Because people say, "Why is it taking so long?"

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): I obviously cannot speak about that individual case but where we have serious or sensitive case work, there are conferences with Metropolitan Police Service around what further evidence would bolster our case, the lines of inquiry we need to go along. Sometimes, we have to make inquiries abroad. That takes some time before we can gain the evidence to be able to charge a case and go to trial.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just picking up a point, I like the comment about intrusive performance data, and this is where I struggle a year into this particular role that the Mayor has kindly given to me. I struggle with having a transparent overview about how this system is performing, that everyone recognises every partner the criminal justice agency owns, so that we know where we are and we can see whether there is positive progress or not. Because it is no good having a debate about the numbers, whether they are right or wrong. They should just be the numbers and then we can embrace them and we can try to shift them in the right direction. For me, to use a Bill Bratton [former New York Police Commissioner] phrase, who was here for our conference recently, "CompStat", or whether we want to use a Simon Byrne phrase, "a crime-fighters", we already should have a crime-fighters or a CompStat for the Criminal Justice System, we believe that the public can understand how the Criminal Justice System is working with other

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): We do. The difference is that you are using different data.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): From October, of course, on the --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Sorry, who uses different data, Bernard [Hogan-Howe]?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): This data up here is different to the data that is in that CompStat process, so I think all it is is we need to join these processes together.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Well, I am very happy to have a conjoined data set because I have been requesting this for months, and it is quite frustrating to come to this meeting and it is not being recognised. So a set of data that all the agencies understand, that can be intelligible to the public, I think that is what we have to focus on.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Data on ...?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): On the Criminal Justice System, whether it comes to how swift the justice system is or how sure it is, that we are absolutely clear how the London criminal justice --

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): I think there are two issues or a few issues. We are the only place in the country that does run a cross-agency performance regime. We will bring core areas in for a performance conversation with colleagues in the room, so that happens every month. So despite the frustration of figures, we do more than many places just to know what the numbers mean or what is behind them. In relation to the data, the London Criminal Justice Board does have data for all of the different leaders in the system but, also, in terms of what we can bring here, it is constrained by the same issue that the HMI has talked about, that we can only put so much data in the public domain because of the need to comply with legislation in relation to what can and what cannot be said in here. That creates a clouded picture of progress so that some of the information that you wanted to show today, we have not been able to bring to you because of this legislation.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is legislation that stops data being made transparent to --

Simon Byrne (MPS Assistant Commissioner): In public.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): To the public.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Just going back to this issue of Londoners disproportionately pleading not guilty, am I right in thinking that has been highlighted as one of the phenomena here?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I said, “Well, maybe that is because Londoners have a keen sense of their own innocence and they are bolshie or whatever, maybe it is because they have access to more cunning lawyers or whatever”. Thinking about it, of course, the rational calculation when you plead not guilty, in view of the benefit that you would get in the form of reduction in your sentence, is it that Londoners are thinking that in courts in this city, they will have a higher chance of getting off than elsewhere? That must surely be the rational calculation.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Possibly but I think it is more complicated than that because I think we do have a richer mix of work. We also have many multi-handed cases, so gangs and people working together. We have many more cases where we have five, six, seven defendants, which are more complicated, which then they are each represented, they plead not guilty to find out what the evidence is against them before pleading guilty and getting the discount. That is a significant difference to some of the metropolitan areas around the country.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Sorry, just explain that again.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): They have many more cases that are multi-handed in London so they are complicated to investigate, complicated to prosecute, and, therefore, defendants tend to plead not guilty and wait until the day of trial to find out whether witnesses turn up and whether there is enough evidence against them in those cases.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right. That is interesting.

Julien Vantghem (Justices’ Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): There is also evidence that if you have too long a trial delay, that people realise it is going to take X number of months for trial. As you see on the figures, the biggest reason why trials do not go ahead and unfold is where witnesses do not turn up. If we have too long a trial delay on those types of cases, there is some evidence to suggest that defendants think, “Well, it is longer for the witnesses to change their mind and not turn up”. That is why --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So it is a self-fulfilling problem or a self-reinforcing problem?

Julien Vantghem (Justices’ Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): That is why I have told you our focus has been on what I

would call the core criminal cases, the priority to deal with cases that are charged by the police, not so much a bus and tube fare evasion or with road traffic but to deal with those cases. As you have seen with your figures earlier today, that varies across London. We have to adjust our resources, so we have to move resources from one part of London, the number of courts we run in one part of London, to another part of London to respond to the police activity and the number of cases that are coming through the court. We have courtrooms that are idle. That is because we have to move our capacity around. That is the big issue for us, being able to respond in sufficient enough time.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right, that is an incredibly interesting discussion. I am basically hearing some very plausible reasons for the discrepancy between London and other parts of the country, the different types of offense in the mix, and the delay there might be between those offences and all the rest of it, and also the way Londoners tend not to plead guilty and the causes of that. That is something that I had not properly understood before. The question is, what do we do and how can we help you, as it were, to deal with that.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member): It seems to me that we have heard explanations, which are plausible at least to some extent, but particularly given MOPAC's remit, policing and crime, and what the Commissioner said about the need to think about a system-wide approach. I think our focus here now should be what we can do. How do we encourage joined-up working within proper limits in order to maintain the independence of the courts, of course, and so on. What is getting in the way of getting this sort of improvement to which we committed a year ago, and what can we do or what can you do?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Well, we have one idea, which is we promote the idea that a not guilty plea is a rational choice.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) But in terms of joined-up (overspeaking)

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): What are the system reform improvements, essentially, that can be broken down that would work for London, that would ensure that we get the swifter justice so there is less time for witnesses to think they should not turn up? We also see we continue to boost the effective trial rate.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): There are a few national things that will happen, the Damien Green reform. No doubt you all have seen the paper that was published at Parliament in June. He is quite right about how the summary justice is too bureaucratic and it is too process-driven, and we need to do something about that. So we will be looking at traffic again, and centralising traffic and digitising traffic in the next year, and doing live links with the police so police officers do not have to attend court on traffic cases.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So when you say “traffic”, do you mean the traffic offences?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Motoring offences, yes, so there are thousands and thousands of cases that are clogging up the system and lumped together for statistical purposes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): They are all appearing in our figures, are they not?

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): Yes, they are.

Julien Vantghem (Justices’ Clerk for London West & London North & East Region, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): 35% of your figures.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): If we can get them to focus on the adult charge cases in London, that will be a really good thing to do. I think to make sure that we get the quality right and that the file builds right, and disclosure to the defence is right so that defendants have all the information to then say “I plead guilty” or not, then we need to make sure that the police and the CPS have enough resources to make sure that we do not have the prosecution witness not turning up. I do not know the answer to that but is there enough resource in the witness care units? What can we do about criminal justice units? Is there enough resource in there to make sure that the files are built on time and with good quality? I would raise those questions.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): I am not sure about the first one. I am not sure if we are going to be escorting people to prosecution witnessing, but I think the thing which might be a way forward from where we are in terms of sharing information is that, clearly, if we have information which we are using internally around our performance management data, which we cannot immediately share with this forum, perhaps there are ways that we can have a meeting outside this forum where we share that data and how far we have got. One, it will explore some of the questions raised probably in public and privately so that we can get what is information sharing for a start. Then, we can try to find some elegant way of getting from this statistical blight, it seems we have, again to a place where you can ask us questions which might help get things forward.

So, probably, two things that might be helpful; one is we get down, which is a concept processor, lets see the parts of the process, how long does it take you to get the arrest, how long does it take to get a charge, what forms part of that delay if there would be a delay? We do that away from here privately and then the next time we meet, we will be in a better informed position to do that. I am certainly happy to sign up to doing that, which might help.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): I think that would be very helpful.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We will just hear from the other agencies. Is there any objection to that? That is a very tangible way --

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): We work together like that.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member): So understand the problem and then address it.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The structural hurdle, which I am sure we should be able to find a way through, which is that even if we have private data, how do we get that into the public domain.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Why should that data not be made public though?

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): Well, I think the fundamental reason, although we are frustrated by it, the reason it has come about is because the State have been challenged about publishing statistical data which is politically advantageous. Therefore, we have a separate department of statistical righteousness that can only do its job if it is given time to do it, to be fair to it. So it has been asked to do a job and it is given time to do it, and it cannot do it for everybody overnight. So a time is taken to make credible the statistics and to make sure that political expediency has not caused the reporting of inaccurate data. That is what is happening and so that is a very appropriate thing --

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): You do share that information between us anyway, which is not the public.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): That is very appropriate but it does not help us, discussing this thing now. So I think we have to find some elegant way of getting through that.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): So we feel a bit like the HMIC, where our hands are tied to discuss historic data, and what we need is a more up-to-date common picture so we can have the system discussions about how we move things on.

Bernard Hogan-Howe (MPS Commissioner): The first thing we talked about, which was theft of mobile phones, if we do not tell the public that we are losing mobile phones hand over fist for the last year, how are they supposed to protect themselves? It cannot be right that we cannot inform the public about what is happening, let alone how effective we are in dealing

with it, so there has to be some way through that. For me, one of the ways has always been if you know that, broadly, the statistics are inaccurate by 5%, plus or minus 5, you are publishing with that caveat but, of course, politically some of these areas are incredibly sensitive. It is not just the police. What about immigration? We could go through a whole list of statistics. That is what has caused this need to make credible the statistics.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): I guess another thing you could spend money on if you have capital money is more video, so investing in police and video so that we can take evidence from police officers in court from live links.

Jeremy Mayhew (MOPAC Challenge Member) The Police Minister has announced a capital injection and, indeed, one of our questions was, given that there is some capital available now for improvement in the Criminal Justice System, where are the priorities? We do not necessarily need to answer those now but having understood the obstacles to swifter justice, we need to try to identify the pinch points, the bottlenecks, and so on.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): The four ideas we have so far then, which is we know what are: winnow out the traffic figures, is that right? So you can see the cases that I think people would want us to focus on. Get the witnesses to turn up somehow. Get the defendants to plead guilty and more video.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Do you mind if I mention domestic violence?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): I am conscious that in your plan, making women and girls safer in the capital is one of the strands and this consultation, I think the second consultation around violence around women and girls at the moment, the funding arrangements around the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers or advocates is a bit of a mishmash at times. Victim support do fund some posts, I think it is about 24 posts, but the local authorities fund others, so there were about 64 back in December. I think Alison Saunders, who is the chief crown prosecutor, wrote in asking that the good work that happened around refuges for victims also was echoed in terms of the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) funding, so that --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Which funding?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): IDVA, it is the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes. Sorry, I am unfamiliar with this. Yes.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): So MOPAC has done very good work around the refuges. We just wonder whether that could be echoed in terms of the IDVAs, because I think if you are cited on the support that victims witness get, not just through the Criminal Justice System but from the point of crisis all the way through to after the criminal matters are finished, I think they would be more likely to come to court in the first place and be more supportive of the prosecution. Victims and witnesses' absence has been mentioned but it is particularly difficult in domestic violence cases, and we are not doing very well in --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So, Adrian [Foster], what you are saying there is more support from us on the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers in order to help the prosecution encourage people to come forward?

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): Yes, they are not connected to us or the police. They are completely independent and they can provide advice to the individuals.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes, I know.

Adrian Foster (Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service): They are particularly important for the high and very high risk in terms of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay, we will certainly take that point. I am very grateful for that.

Okay, well, look, I think that is an extremely useful discussion. Does anybody want to ask any more of our colleagues in the CPS and the courts' service? Thank you very much. That was extremely illuminating. Stephen [Greenhalgh] do you want to sum up?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is illuminating and it is quite clear that there is an opportunity for significant system process improvement, provided the agencies are prepared to work together, and there is a shared ambition to have swifter justice to make sure that we improve the effective trial rate in London. We sense that and, certainly, MOPAC is very committed to work with you and the Mayor has made this a big priority. Of course there are challenges to make it happen and not talk about it. There has been a constant desire to reform the Criminal Justice System but I have to say that I am encouraged by the commitment to certainly move to more digital working, improved processes, but also ensure that we get more Londoners to plead guilty earlier.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So when will we next get this panel back?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think what we will probably need to do is to energise this with meetings outside this, business-like meetings that

can focus on sharing the performance matrix, because without having clarity over that, I am afraid we cannot really play much of a role and, certainly, to have an annual forum where we discuss progress with the public for the whole Criminal Justice System. But there needs to be a lot of intensive working to make sure that we have a shared understanding and then a shared plan to make a big difference around the Criminal Justice System.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Did(?) you not want to have another session like this where we go over the figures?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, we have the quarterly sessions already, do we not? So we could potentially always look within the quarterly sessions at this. I do not know whether, Mayor, that you are --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That will be six months? Should we aim for every six months?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Every six months. That is a good idea.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Would that be too much? I think that would be very valuable.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think every six months would be great to share the plan for London about what is going to change to make things a lot better. That would be helpful and then we can look at performance again on an annual basis.

Sheila Proudlock (London Delivery Director, HM Courts and Tribunal Service): We will know more about the digital work.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Correct, the digital revolution and all the other things we plan to do, so that will be very useful.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Thanks very much indeed. Thank you Commissioner. Thank you, Simon [Byrne]. Thank you, Craig [Mackey] Thank you, Steve [Otter].