

21 May 2025

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Sent by email

Dear Marina,

Thank you for sharing the Police and Crime Committee's report on public order policing in London.

I appreciate that the committee has put forward a number of recommendations which relate to the Metropolitan Police Service. We have addressed each of these recommendations in Annex A.

For completeness, I would like to thank the committee for sharing a copy of the report with the MPS prior to publication. As requested at the time of sharing, we reviewed the report for factual inaccuracies, and these were passed to the committee. We were disappointed that the report was not updated to reflect the points we raised in our reply. A copy of our feedback is included in Annex B. However, I am pleased that committee officials have been in contact with our External Relations team to discuss how a similar situation can be avoided in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Pippa Mills  
**Assistant Commissioner**  
**Met Operations & Performance**  
**Metropolitan Police Service**

## ***Annex A – MPS response to the recommendations set out in the Police and Crime Committee’s report on public order policing in London***

### **Recommendation 1**

*The Government must ensure the National and International Capital City (NICC) Grant it provides to the Met is updated yearly in line with inflation and operational requirements.*

We appreciate that this recommendation is directed at HM Government. We would also note that the MPS, as the capital city police service, must manage a wide range of pressures that many other police forces do not, from major events – like the London Marathon, Taylor Swift at Wembley and the King’s Coronation – to significant protest activity.

In the last few years, we have seen the greatest sustained pressure on public order in history: Just Stop Oil, Extinction Rebellion and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (to name a few examples), as well as other high-profile events, like Notting Hill Carnival.

For 2025/26, our NICC grant is set to increase to £248.7million, up from £185million in the previous year. This is good news, and we are grateful that the Home Office has recognised the impact of underfunding, alongside increased demand on our resources.

That said, based on the Home Office’s independent review in 2015, taking into account inflation, there is still a funding gap and we will continue to make the case for full funding for the necessary policing activities the MPS undertakes as the capital city’s police service.

### **Recommendation 2**

*MOPAC should undertake analysis into how the NICC grant is used within the next 6 months, including how the grant could be better calculated to meet the unique demands of policing protest in London.*

We appreciate that this recommendation is directed at MOPAC. We would also note that the NICC is not only used to cover the costs associated with policing protests, as the recommendation suggests. It is also used to cover the costs associated with safety and security policing arrangements.

### **Recommendation 3**

*The Met must publish its Aid Reduction Plan, or a summary thereof, to provide reassurance to local communities concerned about the impact of abstractions on neighbourhood policing. This plan should include a medium to long-term strategy for reducing neighbourhood abstraction levels by 50 per cent within the next five years.*

To clarify, the MPS does not have an ‘Aid Reduction Plan’ per se. In this context, it is important to note that the MPS cannot control public order policing demand. Instead, we have developed a plan to reduce the impact of aid on frontline policing, limiting the abstractions from neighbourhood teams by refocusing where we draw resources from.

#### **Recommendation 4**

*The Met should undertake internal survey work to ensure it fully understands why officers are handing in their public order tickets and what incentives would encourage them to continue public order work. The Met should also use the results to develop an action plan within the next 12 months to ensure targeted and tailored support to officers.*

For the avoidance of doubt, the number of public order trained MPS officers has increased since 2023 as a result of a change to internal policy, moving from a target of 4,000 to 4,500 trained officers to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement and provide a sufficient contingency. This has been achieved through a number of means, including rolling recruitment campaigns, increasing carrier driver numbers and new development opportunities.

#### **Recommendation 5**

*The Met should launch an internal campaign to encourage greater sign up to public order training at level 2. The Met should report back to the Committee within 12 months on what action has been taken to encourage greater take up of level 2 training and the results.*

This measure is already in place.

#### **Recommendation 6**

*The Mayor and the Met should provide mental health support for officers who have undertaken extensive public order duties, particularly for those who are exposed to criticism and personal attack on social media.*

This measure is already in place.

#### **Recommendation 7**

*The Mayor must commission a review of crowd density and crowd safety at Notting Hill Carnival to inform stewarding requirements. This must include a full review of pinch points and strict guidance for the number of stewards required across the Carnival. The findings of this review should be made public at least three months in advance of Carnival 2026.*

The review has already been commissioned, and the Phase One report has been shared with the partners.

#### **Recommendation 8**

*The Government should include the cost of policing football matches in the remit of the new Independent Football Regulator. The Government should review the policing of football matches so it is placed on a more sustainable footing, with more equitable contributions to matchday policing from the Premier League and Premier League clubs.*

We appreciate that this recommendation is directed at HM Government. We would also note that London is one of the greatest cities in the world. This greatness stems, in part, from the fact that it is one of the leading centres for sport and culture. Every year, our capital city hosts numerous major events which draw people from around the world: Euros in 2021, Taylor Swift last year, Winter Wonderland and the annual London Marathon, to name just a handful. Inevitably, these major events result in increased demands on policing, which have to be balanced against other priorities. In particular, policing these events frequently rely on abstractions from local policing and mutual aid, taking MPS officers out of neighbourhoods. We also have to pay for these policing operations.

The MPS work within the current SPS guidance and legal framework. In short, this means that anything that occurs in a public space in relation to football is not catered for by the football clubs. There is a disputed expectation that the cost should be borne by police, this challenge extends to other non-football related events too, such as the London Marathon.

In the future, the MPS would like to be able to recover the costs incurred in policing this type of event, either in full or in part. In this context, it is worth referencing NPCC guidance which says “*Legal opinion suggests that the responsibility for public safety rests with the organisers of an event, the owners of the land on which it takes place and the local authority if the event takes place on a road*” and our view is that those with responsibility for maintaining public safety should also be expected to meet the related costs.

## **Recommendation 9**

*The Met should conduct an evaluation of its work on the ENABLE project by the end of December 2025. The Met should publish a summary of findings from this evaluation, including scoping whether lessons learnt from ENABLE could be used to reduce officer numbers required for wider public order policing.*

An internal review of Operation Enable covering 2024/25 has already been completed. This review has now been extended to the current financial year too.

## **Recommendation 10**

*The Government should issue clear public guidance on the status of the new threshold used for serious disruption following the conclusion of the legal appeal (National Council for Civil Liberties, R v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2024]).*

We note that this recommendation is directed at HM Government.

## **Recommendation 11**

*The Met should issue comprehensive new guidance for the public within the next 12 months on how new protest policing powers will be used going forward, and how it will ensure the use of these powers doesn't infringe upon protected rights to freedom of expression and assembly.*

*This guidance should include specific sections on the use of Serious Disruption Prevention Orders and the use of stop and search in a protest context.*

Any operational guidance issued in relation to any policing powers would be by the College of Policing in conjunction with the NPCC. The MPS would support the development of such guidance but not issue its own.

***Annex B – initial MPS comments on the Police and Crime Committee’s draft report on public order policing in London***

Page	Section/ paragraph/ line number	Reviewers comments
8	Recommendation 2	The NICC is not only used for policing protest as the report suggests. It is also used for safety and security policing arrangements.
8	Recommendation 3	‘Aid reduction plan’ is misleading – we are actually talking about efforts to protect Neighbourhood Teams by drawing on resources elsewhere in the organisation, which is not the same thing. As you’ll appreciate, we have no control over demand in this scenario.
8	Recommendation 5, 6 and 7	These are already in place
7	First Bullet.	Note, the MPS no longer uses the phrase ‘facilitating protest’. Instead, we refer to ‘policing peaceful protest’.
7	6	Overall the MPS public order trained numbers have increased since 2023 reflecting the organisational stance of moving from a target of 4,000 to 4,500 trained officers to meet mobilisation requirements and provide a contingency.
21	Paragraph 5	The statement and the graph do not reflect that for central aid not all of officers are taken from frontline policing. Further, local aid does not mean officers being redeployed on their own BCU as they could be ward officers carrying out local aid on their own wards,
37	Recommendation 9	A review of Op Enable has already been undertaken by MO6 for the 2024/25 year. This work is being expanded in 2025/26 and subject to an ongoing review.
42	Paragraph 3	The MPS does consider the cumulative impact of protest on every occasion, both at a central and local level. IJAN is an example of this.