

MDA No.: 1725

Title: The Metropolitan Police Service's Territorial Support Group

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 4 June 2025 the Committee held a meeting with representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service on its Territorial Support Group (TSG) and resolved that:
- Authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.*
- 1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

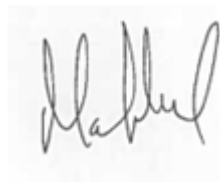
- 2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agrees the Committee's letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the Territorial Support Group, as attached at Appendix 1.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name: Marina Ahmad AM, Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

Date: 21 July 2025

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Lead Group Members, on 9 May 2025 under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the report and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the report will be formally noted at the Police and Crime Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): L J Harvey

Printed Name: Lauren Harvey, Principal Committee Manager

Date: 16 July 2025

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.


Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Police and Crime Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 21.07.25

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Susan Hall AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Gareth Roberts AM
- Zoë Garbett AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? **NO**

If yes, until what date:

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? **NO**

Lead Officer / Author


Signature: J Roker

Printed Name: Janette Roker

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 16 July 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 21 July 2025

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Marina Ahmad AM
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

(Sent by email)

21 July 2025

Dear Sir Mark,

Transparency and accountability for the Territorial Support Group (TSG)

Publicly available information on the TSG is limited. Information about the group online is limited to answers to FOI requests, Mayoral questions, and information about the wider MO7 Taskforce in which the TSG sits.

Due to the scarcity of information surrounding the TSG, the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee held a meeting to shed light on details that are otherwise not in the public domain. In this meeting, we heard directly from Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adelekan and Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove who together are responsible for overseeing the directorate and unit respectively in which the TSG sits. The transcript from the session provides a valuable source of information on the work of the TSG, which is not available elsewhere.¹

The Committee heard from the Met that the TSG plays an important role in the Met's approach to tackling serious crime, public order policing, and supporting local units.

However, the Committee is concerned that the TSG lacks public accountability. The Met needs to ensure the TSG has the trust of the communities it is policing given the concerns that have been raised about TSG in the past. For example, we were told about historic TSG complaints data from stop and search coalition group StopWatch, which said that the TSG had "consistently attracted a

¹ The transcript can be found at [this link](#).

disproportionate number of complaints, particularly in relation to excessive force and oppressive behaviour.”²

Complaint data is hard to find online and often only available through published complex and lengthy FOI requests, at MO7 Taskforce level rather than TSG level. This makes it difficult to assess whether the TSG is attracting complaints in specific areas more than others, and impedes meaningful scrutiny of TSG activity. Data is also not disaggregated by protected characteristics. The Committee believes that complaints data broken down by age, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity would improve transparency around TSG operations, and allow communities greater visibility and confidence on how it is being used.

Chief Superintendent Wingrove and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Adelekan pointed to the TSG Community Reference Group as a key mechanism of community engagement. However, it is hard to gauge the impact of the TSG’s Community Reference Group. There is no information easily available online on the nature of the meetings of the Group, the locations of meetings or actions agreed, or even on how residents can engage with the Group. This is a concern given the fact that greater community scrutiny of the TSG is a commitment in the Met’s plan for reform, A New Met for London.³

We welcome Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove’s commitment to provide the Committee with the terms of reference for the TSG Community Reference Group.⁴ However, we believe a broader and proactive publication approach is necessary to improve Londoner’s understanding of the aims and purpose of the TSG. It would also allow the Met to publicise opportunities for the public to engage with the TSG, pre and post deployment, and highlight particular operations and outcomes, which would improve accountability and could improve public perceptions of the TSG.

Recommendation: The Met must improve transparency and accountability around the work of its Territorial Support Group. To do so, it should publish, at a minimum:

- **information as to where the Territorial Support Group sits within the Met and its role in frontline policing and in keeping Londoners safe;**
- **complaints data at Territorial Support Group level, broken down by age, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity, to allow communities greater visibility and understanding of the experience of Londoners on how it is being used;**
- **the full terms of reference for Territorial Support Group Community Reference Group, as well as minutes from meetings and details of how the public can attend; and**
- **a list of community engagement activities undertaken by the Territorial Support Group updated every quarter.**

² Submission received from StopWatch

³ Metropolitan Police, [A New Met for London 2023-25](#), p. 68

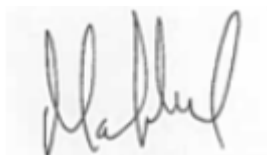
⁴ London Assembly, [Transcript of Agenda Item 4 – The Metropolitan Police Service’s Territorial Support Group](#), 4 June 2025, p. 37

Given the concerns outlined above and the importance of building public trust, we hope you will take these recommendations forward as a priority and provide the Committee with an update on progress implementing them by the end of 2025.

I would be grateful if you could send your response to Philip Lewis at Philip.lewis@london.gov.uk by 15 September 2025. The Committee will publish your response so that there is transparency about what the Committee has received.

Please contact Philip Lewis if you have any questions about the investigation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marina Ahmad', is displayed on a light gray background.

Marina Ahmad AM

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee