



Marina Ahmad AM
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

(Sent by email)

30 June 2025

Dear Sir Mark,

Lost, damaged or missing evidence and the impact on criminal cases

The Committee was concerned to read that more than 30,000 prosecutions in England and Wales collapsed between October 2020 and September 2024. Many of these were related to lost, missing or damaged evidence. In addition, it was reported that one in 20 prosecutions by the Met had been dropped between 2020 and 2024 as a result of missing evidence, compared to one in 50 across England and Wales.¹

In relation to this, the Committee would be grateful for the following information:

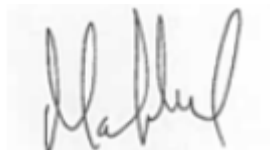
- How concerned are you about the Met's ability to safely store and protect evidence?
- How many cases brought forward by the Met in the last five years have been impacted by lost, damaged or missing evidence?
- What specific improvements has the Met made to its recording and storage systems to minimise the risk of lost evidence?
- Can you break down the number of cases impacted by lost, damaged or missing evidence by crime type?

¹ BBC News, [Thousands of criminal cases collapsing due to missing or lost police evidence](#), 6 June 2025

I would be grateful if you could send your response to Philip Lewis at Philip.lewis@london.gov.uk by 25 July 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', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Marina Ahmad AM

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee