

Date: Tuesday 21 July 2015
Location: Committee Room 5, City Hall
Hearing: MOPAC Challenge – Performance

Start time: 10am
Finish time: 11:15am

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, Chair
Faith Boardman, MOPAC Challenge Member
Jonathon Glanz, MOPAC Challenge Member
Steve O’Connell, MOPAC Challenge Member
Keith Prince, MOPAC Challenge Member
Linda Duncan, Chair of MOPAC/MPS/ Audit Panel
Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC
Rebecca Lawrence, Director of Strategy, MOPAC

Guests

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Commissioner, MPS
Helen King, Assistant Commissioner, MPS
Stephen Otter, HMIC

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): This is a meeting of the MOPAC Challenge. I'm glad to see Helen and Bernard here today and welcome all members and indeed members of the audience. We've got a larger audience than normal for the MOPAC Challenge, you're all most welcome.

I thought we'd begin if I may, since we've had a little bit of discussion in the last few days about the utility of water cannon Bernard. In view of the Home Office's decision not to grant us a licence at the moment for their use, I wondered if you'd be kind enough to remind the member of the MOPAC Challenge and everybody else why you thought back then that they might be a useful addition to your repertoire of means of crowd control.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well, as you remember back in 2011 when there were the riots in London, there were three days of rioting. And I would argue -- although there was no public enquiry to establish this for certain -- that the three days were different. So, the first day was rioting essentially in Haringey, but also extended up into Enfield.

There was actually fighting along one street on the main road in Haringey. Officers couldn't go forward, because there weren't enough of them. That was the major problem, there weren't enough of them. And of course, they couldn't go backwards because the fire brigade were behind them. And even though they had the benefit of mounted support -- which helped them for a while to move the missile throwers beyond range -- they sustained attack for around eight hours. That seemed to be a pretty miserable experience for them, and not at all allowing them to be effective.

So, it seemed to me that what we had to do was to find something to consider which might help get the missile throwers beyond range, because they needed some respite. Now, there are only various options for that at the moment. There are horses, but they get tired after a while. There are baton rounds, but baton rounds have never been used on the mainland in the UK, and that would have been a radical departure then and would even be now if we had to use that.

All the options that we do have are unpleasant. From CS spray to baton rounds to using a metal asp to fighting. You know, the physical restraint of people. All these are unpleasant. And at that time the Government was considering whether or not water cannon were the right option.

So, I would argue that on that first night, it could have been an assistance. It wouldn't have prevented it. It might have helped us establish control, and of course what it might have helped us to do is prevent the following two nights. Because the following two nights I acknowledge the water cannon would have been less effective. The following two nights we saw I think first in 16 and then on the second night in 23 boroughs.

We saw that rioting moved around very quickly. We saw gangs of people setting fire to buildings, breaking into buildings. These were looters on the move. And in that case, I would argue that it's possible that a water cannon wouldn't have been as effective.

So, my argument has only ever been about the first night. When had we not lost so resoundingly, and I'm afraid people saw it on television. They came out on succeeding nights and we saw it around the country too, where people believed that they could win.

So, that's always been my point. 1) It is not the answer. 2) It is restricted to the types of circumstances we saw on that Saturday night, when you need officers to have some opportunity to restrain the people from throwing missiles. Given that as we see in Northern Ireland, it has been an effective tactic, different circumstances to some extent. It seemed to me that at least it needed to be considered.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Well, I'm very grateful for that, and I must say I was initially very reluctant to consider that request. But I have to say, I find in the end that argument persuasive, that you needed some sort of intermediate tool that wasn't baton rounds, wasn't CS gas, wasn't police violence administered through asps. But something that was more humane but might be decisive in quelling the disturbance.

I think your point about the effect -- the psychological impact it might have had on the succeeding nights and indeed on the rest of the country is very telling. I wonder whether the MOPAC has been able to evaluate the 67 questions that we've had from the Home Office about the machines that we've got already. Is there anything we can say about that?

Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC: I think Chair, we've been very reliant on colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Service who have been through all of those 67 and provided us with the remediation that they have either undertaken or are about to undertake. I don't know if the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner King want to say a word or two about that?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Certainly, I mean, we saw the 67 recommendations and we believe we've addressed all of them. It's difficult without reading out the full list of 67, but I think in terms of the issues that were raised, there were things like terminology that need to be standardised. From two points of view, one obviously a move from the German machines over to the English experience. And number two is obviously we'd take the training from Northern Ireland.

So, you're trying to meld two things together into one thing that will work on the UK mainland, particularly in London. There was a question about the range that the water jet would be considered effective, we've resolved that. The public address system has been tested and is audible. They wanted to check whether or not that was okay and it appears it is.

The training had been carried out in lower light conditions. Obviously most of the riots tend to be at night, so we've now addressed that. And a water-pressure sensor that was defective in one of the vehicles has been replaced. I think some of the signage on the vehicle was German and needed to be replaced. These are all reasonable questions.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): It sounds like pretty trivial problems to me.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I think there were certain things that we were in the process of and have worked through. You know there was things I think in terms of the terminology in the training manual. I think the Germans talk about cannoneers and we use a slightly different term.

So, I think there's no doubt that to get a new thing in, you will always have to work through some snagging things. I think that on the whole we would regard the majority of issues as snagging, but we're quite happy to work through them. If that was the only reason, we think that was possible to work our way through those items.

I think it was helpful to have the investigation and audit, because otherwise we might have missed some of these things. So, that's not a problem in itself. But we do think that those were less of an issue than obviously some fundamental things that the Government wanted to consider in this case.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Good. Well look, I think that's very helpful. If anybody wants to come in, or I propose we just bash on, on the main issues for the challenge. In other words, I think we basically want to talk about performance today. This should be quite a quick MOPAC Challenge as far as I can work out. Rebecca, where are you? There you are. Rebecca, why don't you take us through performance, how you see things at the moment? Have you got some slides to look at?

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): Certainly Mayor. First up, before the dashboard just a couple of slides of context. The first is international comparators. It's always difficult to compare crime types, because everyone measures things in different ways. One crime type you can compare is homicide. From this, we're confident to say that London is one of the safest cities worldwide. It has a homicide rate of just 1.1 per year per 100,000 population. This is the fourth lowest out of all those comparator cities, lower than Paris, Frankfurt, Toronto, and considerably lower than the cities in the US.

If you want to move to the next slide --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Interesting that Madrid and Dubai and Hong Kong are lower than us. Madrid is doing well there, when you think that's a big city. It's got its social problems like us, that's quite a --

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): But like us, very low numbers.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yeah, and quite a small population. Sorry.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): No, that's fine. The next slide is from the National Crime Statistics that were released on Thursday and we will talk about some of the recording practices later when we look at London performance. But this shows the recent release by the Office of National Statistics of the national crime trends for 2014 to 2015.

It shows that England and Wales saw an increase of 2.4 % in all crime, that's the red line. But you will see that there is a difference between the performances there of the forces in the most similar group to the Metropolitan Police Service. So, the green line with the particularly sharp rise is the three other forces in the most similar force group to the Metropolitan Police Service.

They had an increase of 3.6 % whereas if you look at the blue line there, the Metropolitan Police Service saw a very dramatic fall. We now see a creeping up, but it recorded just under 1.2 % increases in all offences. So as you will know Mayor through this panel, through the work of

this group and others we've been looking some time with the Metropolitan Police Service at drilling down into some of the drivers behind that uplift. That is what the remaining part of the slide pack does.

So, if I move on to the MOPAC crime dashboard. This is one of the pages from our three page interactive dashboard which is live on the website. And it shows the changes in the MOPAC seven performance against the baseline. They're all the MOPAC seven crimes. You will see the trend line of reduction, and you will see that that's the red line. The blue lines are where absolute performance is.

So, there are some good success stories in there. You have burglary reducing by 24 %; robbery has come down by 44 %. Theft from motor vehicle has come down by 32 % but there are obviously some issues within that, which the rest of the slide pack will explore.

The next slide, that's the total reduction target. We can show that we are likely to achieve our aim of a total reduction of MOPAC seven by 20 %. It's currently at minus 18.8 %. Now, this is less than what was seen at the end of the financial year 2014 to 2015 when the reduction was 19.8 % you will recall. But we are on course to reach the 20 % but there is a slowing in the reduction, meaning that we wanted to explore how to maintain that focus and drive.

I think I will pause there before moving onto the remainder of the slide pack.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay, well I think this is very, very interesting. Because basically what we're looking at here -- and your slide with the sort of kicking up of all the figures across the country. Metropolitan Police Service, excluding Metropolitan Police Service -- that's the one. I mean, that's the thing I think the country -- everybody will be interested in. What's going on there is what basically affects us all.

We've had huge success in bringing crime down steadily. We're now seeing what seems to be a stubbornness in getting it down further, and indeed a tendency in some areas for it to go upwards. I've heard arguments that this is to do with changes in reporting standards or urge by HMIC, I think that's one allegation I've heard Steve. So, I wondered if you could comment on these figures, what your take is on what's going on? Is it social change, does this really reflect what is happening and what can we do about it? What is this statistically showing us, that's what I think we would need to know.

Stephen Otter (HMIC): No, there's no doubt that some of the increase and in some crime types there's been an increase because of a change in recording standards. Which we welcome, because --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): These are recorded crimes?

Stephen Otter (HMIC): They're what the police record the crimes to be. We would expect that where a victim has reported a crime, the police record it properly. In some forces, that wasn't being done. So, some of the increase is a consequence of that. But there is some evidence that there is an increase in crime in some crime areas. But the British Crime Survey still shows a reduction.

So, overall, the British Crime Survey is saying -- there's a bit of a time lag --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): British Crime Survey relies on actual members of the population reporting crimes rather than the police reporting crimes?

Stephen Otter (HMIC): Yes. So, when the public are asked directly what their experience of crime is, the indication is that crime reduction is slowing but still going down. But the time lag between those being done and today is very significant. Reported crime gives you a much closer in time view of what might be happening. Recorded crime and the British Crime Survey have generally tracked each other over time, over the long term they've generally tracked each other.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So, if recorded crime is starting to kink upwards again, you would expect the British Crime Survey to start --

Stephen Otter (HMIC): Yes. The change in recording practice doesn't explain all of this emerging increase nationally. So, there is a suggestion that there is a real pressure on crime. I would suggest that the safest way to look at this in relation to holding the Commissioner to account is to look at both the British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics, but not rely only on recorded crime statistics.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So, okay. I mean because I have read -- I think there was a story in the FT or something, about you know some of the crimes that were being recorded as assaults being some things that sound -- it may be just to me -- but pretty trivial. You know, one kid waving a nettle at another kid or something like that, or somebody throwing a biscuit at somebody.

You know I guess a biscuit can be pretty dangerous if thrown hard. But you know there's a certain amount of that -- you know in the suggestion that the HMIC driven demand --

Stephen Otter (HMIC): Yes, I think we refute that in terms of the volume. There might be some of that on the periphery, but that really doesn't explain the (Inaudible). Some of the crimes that weren't being recorded were crimes that you and I would recognise as crimes that ought to have been recorded, and that was the majority. So sometimes, this recording practice does drive that type of dysfunctional behaviour that we don't encourage.

But the rules are complicated, and I must say I don't envy the police. I used to be a Chief Constable, I do know how complicated they can be, but they are important. The public expect there to be a reasonably accurate record of crime in this country. And we're proud as a country to have some of the best standards of crime recording in the world.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes. And in some of the crime types that we have been discussing, obviously the increase is something that we have actually encouraged. Like you know domestic violence and sexual violence and those crimes. Which are among the -- generally, those are the ones that have been bucking the trend and going upwards. Bernard and Helen, what's your update?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Broadly I would agree I think with what the HMI said. It is that we've looked at the British Crime Survey and recorded crime; they broadly follow the same trends. One thing we'll also have to remember about British Crime Survey, I think it's still true that young people are not included in it. So, people tend to be householders. So, it excludes some people who aren't householders and it tends to exclude people who are younger, usually under 18.

Now, that's quite important I think in our stats. Because what we're seeing is where we think there is a true increase in crime as opposed to a recording effect, we're talking about young people and wounding and stabbing. So, I think that's one thing for us all to keep an eye on, because that is a serious crime. We all want to know exactly what's happening and I do agree with the HMI when it says that we need accurate stats.

Two reasons, we need to know what's happening but frankly when I come to talk to politicians, if there is more crime I will say that we need more help. So, I think for lots of reasons the public expect to see what's happening and people should be reporting it; we should be recording it properly. So, I'll never argue against -- you know you always have to record stuff. I agree also that at times there are some unintended consequences of pushing people towards recording everything.

Particularly around young people I think, particularly around schools. There is a danger that things that otherwise would have been sorted out in what you might regard as a sensible way, end up being a recorded issue. But I do think they're more marginal given the majority of things that we're talking about.

I think the second thing I would say is that if you looked at our stats, that we think where the violence is an issue, it is generally recorded with the exception of stabbing. So, you look at the London Ambulance Service data, you look at the health service data, that doesn't show a shift. But what there is a shift in, in all three recordings is around stabbing. And that's why although it's not a massive volume --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): And that's showing up in the health service data as well?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Yes. You see it in the number of people carried by ambulance; you see it in the number of people treated. So for that, I think there is something there for us all to be worried about.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Though that is not yet showing up in the mortality --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): It's certainly not showing in the mortality, which is good. But I think this is our opportunity with these figures to say we're going to -- which is why we can talk a little about the actual taking. Because if we're not careful, if we see an increase in stabbing it's only a short distance sadly to seeing an increase in the number of people being killed.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Absolutely right. Okay well look, I think the message I think we've got from Rebecca and from Steve is that these figures, there may be some that can be ascribed to changes in reporting, but underlying it seems to be a genuine anxiety about some of the figures not moving in the right direction. So, I think what we've got to -- and I invite member of the panel to pose questions --

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): Maybe we ought to cover more slides first.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Okay, well let's finish the slides and then we'll come back and if we can, I think we'll try to ask Bernard and Helen what we can all collectively - you know, politicians and police -- try to do about this problem such as we think it is.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): So, the next slides focus in different chapters really. I suppose the first is a variation in performance across London and we can have some questions around that. The second chapter is around certain crime types, like theft from person and mobile phones. And then we move onto the issues around violence and --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Sorry, go back over that one again.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): So if we go back, first it's performance in crime reductions across London. So, this slide shows that there is a variation of borough performance against the MOPAC seven. Very pleasing to see so many boroughs there coloured in green, because the majority of boroughs are recording a reduction in the baseline. Seventeen boroughs are currently recording 20 % or more decrease.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): This is over which period, since 2012?

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): So, it's important to stress this, I mean this is all the things we've just been talking about must be seen in the context of very considerable reductions since 2012.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): Absolutely, so 17 boroughs are currently recording 20 % or more decrease. But you see there that four boroughs are still recording a decrease but it's less than 10 % and there's only Islington that is recording an increase and it's an increase of more than 3 % so therefore, one borough is not contributing to the overall reduction of MOPAC seven across London. And I think that might be worth pausing for reflection.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Sorry say it again, Islington is not recorded?

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): So, Islington is actually showing an increase of almost 3 %.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right, well I certainly would be grateful for some information. But I'm going to bring in Keith and then Steve.

Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member): Thank you, what I'd like to ask, obviously Islington is the only borough that isn't showing any contribution to the reduction. Now, I do understand that it's a fairly new borough commander there, which hopefully can facilitate a change. The point I would like to make is are we able to move resources around, so that in the boroughs where we have a very good performance against targets, are we able to move perhaps some of the resources from there into these four or five boroughs where clearly we need to focus on the issues?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I'm going to let Helen say a little bit about Islington particularly --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Sorry, could I just ask, I'll get -- maybe Steve you could come in?

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yeah, I mean we can -- also touching upon the slide that we looked at early about -- which is obviously connected to this -- which is about the seemingly sort of slowing down of the reduction. So as I say, we're minus 18.8 but at year end, it was 19.8 and clearly you're to be congratulated because we're on course to the 20 %. And I think it's worth noting for the records also, that significant successes around robbery 44 %, theft from motor vehicle 32 %, burglary 24 %. These are significant reductions in those areas. But I would like also your comments Helen, particularly around the perceived slowdown in reductions, bearing in mind we've got another eight or nine months to succeed in the 20 %. So, that's going to be connected to Keith, so it's going to be an analysis around the boroughs that perhaps are letting us down with a strategic look at how you're going to keep your foot on the pedal across London in its entirety.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Okay, if we could possibly -- just that first point about moving resources around, I'm sure Helen will talk about that. One thing we've got to keep up -- the short answer is yes, we can move some resources around. The other thing we've got to keep an eye on of course is the boroughs -- first of all, we have resources that spread across London. TSG, dogs, horses. That's always a little bit easier. But the boroughs who might give some offers will not always be very happy.

Because of course, we're talking about reductions and increases. It's not a measure of absolute crime, so I think we've got to keep that in mind. And the final point just on Steven's before Helen comes in. I think we got to -- as you said -- about 19.8 %. I calculated we were within 48 hours of achieving the 20 % and then suddenly it seemed to change. So, you could blame me for actually announcing that. But that's broadly where we got to. We were very close to it far quicker than we anticipated, but quite properly we've got to get to the bottom of this and try our best to get back on track.

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Absolutely. If I take the resources issue to start off with. There's a number of ways in which we can tackle specific problems, and as you pointed out, Islington particularly stands out there as having challenges. I can go into a bit more detail about what those challenges are and what's causing them.

As the Commissioner has mentioned, there are some Metropolitan Police Service level resources; TSG, dogs, horses. Also our trident teams are deployed to the boroughs that are experiencing the most significant gang issues at any particular point. And Islington currently has trident supporting them. What we can do with borough resources, one of the things that's driving the crime that we're seeing in Islington at the moment is young people, generally in their mid to late teens. Some associated with gangs, but getting involved in theft from person, theft of motor vehicle in particular, mopeds, also using pedal cycles to steal from people on the streets. Mobile phones, but also purses, credit cards, these kinds of things.

That offending by largely Islington resident young people is actually also impacting on some of the neighbouring boroughs, so Camden and indeed on the city of London. So, what we've done -- which answers Keith's issue in a sense -- is brought resources together across Camden, across Islington, city of London also have some staff working with us on a particular operation there which is targeting these nominals, around 150 individuals where we're having a particular focus on them.

We've made over 460 arrests of those nominals. Because of their ages, it takes a considerable amount of work to get them remanded into custody. Some are in care, the council is working with us very closely where appropriate to place young people into the right kind of accommodation. But it's proving quite a challenge to get a control of these individuals and we're working through a whole range of tactics.

We use a tactic called Achilles heel, which is clearly if you can arrest someone for a robbery or for being in possession of a stolen moped or for a theft from person that's fine. But there may be other tactics we can use, other vulnerabilities. So for instance, non-payment of fine warrants. They're something that normally the courts would execute. Well, we've been working with the courts to identify those individuals so we can go and deal with them for that as well.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Is that Al Capone type thing?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Absolutely. So, really working with them. If we can divert them from crime, great. But if not, to use everything we can to control their offending and to make sure that they're brought to justice.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Do they belong to any particular ethnic group these guys?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): There's a mixture. They tend to be local young people there, we don't see this as being a race issue. It's a form of criminality that these young people are getting into and also putting themselves at risk. So for instance, we're also working with the fire service there around safety issues both in terms of carrying of knives, but also in terms of safety of young people riding mopeds on occasions.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): On the mopeds point, and the difficulty of the tactics, there was a very emotive case recently wasn't there? Of a young lad who died in the course of a pursuit or something like that. I'm going to get the details wrong but I know because I've been -- Henry Hicks, thanks. Because I've been approached by his parents. I mean

clearly, I think that case is still under investigation by the IPCC isn't it, so it's difficult to comment on that.

But I mean I suppose there's a certain amount of folklore around all this and you've got to handle it very carefully haven't you?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well, two things on that, because that identifies some of the issues of chasing. And it is said that we do not pursue. We do continue to pursue vehicles, but we do have to make some kind of risk assessment of what we're dealing with, particularly where the rider is a young rider, so we do make that assessment. But we are trying other tactics to get on top of this. Because what we can't do is allow kids to steal mopeds or run round on them stealing things or attacking people.

So, the two tactics we've tried over the last few weeks, we've had something called operation Venice running. That meant basically that we put about 40 vehicles out in the various parts of London where analysis showed that vehicles were either getting attacked, stolen or getting used to attack other people. They've been equipped with video cameras, they've been equipped with beaconry and we've made sure that we made arrests when people have attacked those cars thinking that they were vulnerable victims, that it was just going to be able to be stolen or steal something from them.

So, we placed items in the cars to see if we could track people who are thieves, and that's been quite effective. The second one is exploring whether or not we can use SmartWater on people who are on vehicles who are being pursued. So, one suggestion that's come from the staff is whether we can squirt SmartWater on people which they wouldn't know, and that when we eventually find them, we've then got some evidence to actually put before a court in terms of charging.

People say, "Well, you can't squirt water at their face, because they might come off." Well I'm not suggesting (Several inaudible words) --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What, they might come off the moped?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): -- so there don't have any safety issues, but the water would then give you some opportunity to investigate later. So, we're looking at new tactics all the time, because some of the other things we have for four wheeled vehicles -- which are spiked things that can slow the tyres down -- don't work as well when you're talking about a two wheeled vehicle.

So, we're looking all the time to see if we can find new tactics because we can't allow people to keep stealing mopeds.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Is there anything that we can say about Henry Hicks, what is the official police position at the moment? Or are you waiting for the IPCC to --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I'm afraid it would now be quite difficult, because the IPCC are carrying out an investigation. I don't have access to their

investigation, I don't know what they are discovering and I think really we need to await the outcome of their enquiry and I believe the Coroner's Court is yet to sit for this too.

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): I think what is important to say -- because that was an Islington case -- as you pointed out, we've got a new borough commander there, Chief Superintendent Roper. She is working very closely with the schools, with the community, with a whole range of groups to make sure that locally, the public have confidence in the police. That they understand the tactics that we're using and the work that's being put in.

We're creating opportunities to divert young people from crime, but we're also being very clear about our determination to make sure people of Islington are safe.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Well absolutely, I think you know if -- we've got to be really, really tough on this, and there's no point in -- that's what I mean about the -- you know, yes there may be an emotive and difficult case in the news at the moment. But that's no reason not to be absolutely ruthless in pursuing people who are nicking mopeds and coming down incredibly hard on them.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): Before we move on, could I make one point moving from the specific to the general? I'm always struck by the importance that from borough commander down to skippers at ward panels, they attach the MOPAC seven and the reduction thereof. That's why this is getting to be such a success story. Many boroughs are probably saying, "We're there and we're getting there." All I would urge obviously, Helen, when you're talking to your borough commanders and getting that message down, is there's still a journey to be made.

Quite rightly that's such a good story with those green coloured ones, but we need to keep that momentum going when we talk to borough commanders, so that they're still saying to their officers down to ward panel level, "Good story so far, you've still got to keep your foot on the pedal to make sure we --" And I know you would anyway but just to add --

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Well, I just want to be absolutely clear about that. Both with my discussion with borough commanders and we've got another crime fighters this Thursday with them all there. But since we've seen this upturn in terms of MOPAC seven, we've been holding weekly performance calls. We're really clear that these crimes are important, because they are important to the people of London who are the victims of them.

We know the impact on people's lives, we know the success that we have had to date, and we want to continue to build on that using all the tactics that we know work. Where we're seeing changes in criminal behaviour, we need to change and adapt our tactics to continue to drive down those crimes. So, I want to reassure everyone really that that determination of our officers and our staff is absolutely there to deal with the challenges which we've already seen.

Steve O'Connell (MOPAC Challenge Member): You talked about the importance of the inspectors in this role, and I know that you meet regularly with the inspectors to get that message over, because they're the people that are actually running those areas. We need to keep in contact with them.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Thank you so much Steve. Keith.

Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member): Yes, you mentioned at the beginning that -- in fact you've been quite effective in making arrests, but I got the impression that it's further down the sausage machine that you're having problems. Is there anything that either we can do or other agencies can do to help you in getting these people off the street?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): I think it is about understanding the impact that's being had. I've been assured that the council is working very closely with us. Some of it is about the prevention methods that we can put in place. So for instance, the council where we know that mopeds for instance are using rat-runs, they're getting bollards and barriers put in place. We're using the CCTV there and we've put some extra resource into making sure we're absolutely maximising all the benefits from that.

I suppose we would also continue to push the messages out to the public of please take care of your possessions. Having your mobile phone out in the street, leaving your purse unattended, these things do make you more vulnerable sadly to being a victim of crime. We really want everyone's support to take those sensible precautions. Make sure your moped is locked with a good quality lock to something that can't be moved. All these things are the messages that we're pushing out at the moment and we really appreciate the support that we get.

Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member): Thank you very much.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Do you mind if I just add two quick things in terms of further support? I think CPS are challenged particularly around - can they get lawyers into police stations? That's a real challenge. We found that when they were in the police station giving direct advice, that worked really well but the financial challenges by them meant that they moved to CPS direct.

Now, CPS direct has its benefits over the telephone, but it's never as good as a colleague who will sit there with you and say, "I don't agree with your case, this is a gap in it." You build a relationship, so I think where we have that working effectively with the murder teams and we're going to get it with the serious sexual violence teams and rape. That is a good thing and the gangs, but on the volume side it's a real challenge. Because you need that feedback. Somebody saying to you, "Look, your case is just not good enough." Or alternatively, "Hang on, we think we've got a case here and you're not really listening to that case."

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That's interesting.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): So, I think that's something that's helpful and then the second thing is obviously the decision of the Government to increase the sentencing for knife crime is well appreciated. Now what we need to do is obviously see that the sentences match that minimum requirement.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yeah, I think that's a very good point about making sure the case is well founded and the CPS is there. We should be taking that up in the London Criminal Justice Board and we should -- I'm worried about it. And okay, let's crack on with some more slides if we can.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): So, the next two slides look at one of the crime types you saw on the dashboard there, which is theft from person and analyse the changes within that. So, theft from person across the Metropolitan Police Service has decreased very significantly, by 21 % since 2012. But we have seen this upward trend in recent months. This is a crime type that is less susceptible to the changes in recording practice, so it is worth looking at why that might be happening.

This slide looks at -- it shows that nearly all boroughs are seeing a reduction. It highlights those boroughs with the highest volume for theft from person, which are Westminster, Islington, Camden, Hackney and Lambeth. Now, of these high volume boroughs, Islington again is the key risk where you've seen a 39 % increase in this crime type in the year to June 2015 compared to March 2012. When you compare it to the other high volume boroughs, it's the only one to show an increase rather than a decrease so it is significant.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): You've got to get absolutely tough on this Islington thing, I mean what is going on here? Speaking as a resident you know, sod it.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): If you turn to the next slide, it does a bit of a deeper dive there to say what has actually been stolen. In the main it is still mobile phones that are the most stolen commodity. With over 20,000 mobile phones recorded as stolen property following theft from person offences. So, that's almost one third of all types of property recorded.

Half of all phones stolen were just from four boroughs. Westminster, Islington, our friend, Camden and Hackney. The most frequently recorded location for offences to occur is in the street, followed by licenced premise.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): This is no good at all. This is absolutely no good at all, we've got to crack this thing. What's the answer here?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well I think there's two things. First of all the things that we need to do better. So for example, one of the things that we do is that when people are brought to custody, we should be checking the IMEI number of the phones that they have with them. Because they're in possession of a stolen phone, that is quite helpful. And in fact, that needed to be chased up and Helen has done that. So now, we're taking IMEI details for about 6,000 phones a week.

So that's if people are in our custody, do we find a stolen phone? Secondly as it says here, there are two main places where this is happening. It's either snatch in the street or it's licenced premises. Or it's called table surfing. So, I suppose what individual victims have got to think about is if you leave your phone about it's likely to get stolen, and there are people who just cruise around restaurants and bars looking for people who just leave their phones on tables.

Now, it's very difficult for the police to intervene in that immediately, but people can take some action for themselves. You've then obviously got this snatch in the street, which is really returning to the people on the mopeds and bikes. So, one of the problems of dealing with crime types in boxes is that we don't see the links. This is clearly linked. So, you get people

who are on bikes, on cycles, on mopeds who are going along the street and taking phones out of people's hands. Because they're showing in the street the thing that they want to steal.

So, we've got to do something more about that and we've talked already about that. And then finally, I think the industry has still got a way to go in some respects. We saw some of the producers of these phones got better at checking to see whether on return of some phones for repair or replacement, had the phones been stolen? But one or two companies are not doing it as well as they could either. They're also a bit reluctant to check our database, because there is a marginal charge but I don't think that's a good reason really.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Oh right, there's a marginal charge on the database for what?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Yeah, but most of the companies are prepared to do it for the check. We make a marginal charge for them to check a phone that's brought in to repair against a database to see whether it's stolen. Most companies are prepared to pay this, but at the moment there's at least one company that's not prepared to do that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Which one is that?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I think that's Apple. The consequence of that is --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): It's not as though they're short of a bob or two. They're sitting on literally the biggest cash mountain in the history of capitalism.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): They're also the biggest on the market.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): It's an unbelievable disgrace that they won't pay a tiny amount to check whether a phone has been stolen.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well, the consequence of that is that -- well first of all, they're the biggest part of the market, so you're most likely to have that phone stolen. But what it means is that we put a workaround in for them. The workaround takes 24 hours. The problem with the 24 hours is, that might be a time when that phone comes into -- you know we'd need to know immediately. Because obviously they could contact us when somebody comes in with a phone, is in the shop and then we could go and arrest them.

Now, on 92 occasions we've managed to do that, but that's meant an awful lot more we haven't. So, I think there's something for all the industry to think about, but equally we've got to do our part in locking people up who are stealing from us and handling them.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): We certainly do. What's the penalty for nicking a mobile?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well it's theft, so it would be ten years, but you'd never get ten years for nicking a --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What are you -- realistically Bernard, what are you going to get? If you're a 17 year old kid in Islington on a moped and you've swiped someone's mobile and you actually are caught, what are you going to get?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I'd have to be sure. I suspect it's unlikely to be an imprisonment.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I very much doubt it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): To be fair, for a young person you could argue the first offence then you'd have a reasonable response.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What about flogging?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): What there is with the magistrates, it's been there but often it's forgotten. It's that magistrates can go against sentencing guidelines that are national. They can only do it on the grounds that there is a local crime type that needs to be addressed. In this area, it would be worth Camden, Islington and Westminster sending a signal.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Right, and basically they're going to get a caution aren't they?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well usually probably a fine. Anything below custody really for a first offence. Of course, if violence is involved that would be different. But where theft is involved, the value of the phone itself is relatively low compared to some of the things, like a car or a burglary that could be stolen.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Thanks. And Jonathan.

Jonathon Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Thank you. I know we discussed before about how technology can interact with us. And I think my concern with seeing these figures -- particularly in and around the night time economy -- is that that technology may have been cracked by some of these individuals. I don't know if you've got any evidence of the kill codes and those kind of things which we hoped were going to address this -- if there is any evidence of those having been compromised, Helen?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): We've got some evidence that some criminal groups have found some work-arounds. Also that phones when blocked on the UK system can either be shipped overseas -- and we've got evidence of some phones in some cases being taken abroad -- Middle East, India -- turning up there. And also phones that are on foreign networks, so particularly tourists coming to London, they can be particularly vulnerable as targets. Because when they phone up and get them blocked, that doesn't necessarily mean that they are blocked here.

We have also seen a development in the market for parts. iPhone six screens and motherboards are quite expensive items in their own right. So, even if a thief has to butcher the phone in effect and not use it as a complete item, the sub-parts have a value in their own right as well.

So, we're seeing a shift if you like in the way the criminals are dealing with the phones. That's a challenge for us, but it's also a challenge for the industry about what they can do to continue to keep the property that they're selling safe for the people who buy it.

Jonathon Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): Because I think we all agree that very few of us walk around with a £500 note in our hand, which is effectively what these bits of kit are worth. But coming back to what the industry can do, I understand that some retailers are now offering registration services at the point of purchase. Is there anything we can do to encourage more retailers to do some kind of registration arrangement, which could allow them to be made less valuable in a shorter period of time and therefore discourage them from being snatched?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Absolutely, we encourage everyone to register their devices and particularly their phones on IMMOBILISE, which is the database. Recently, we got Sainsbury's on board to push this at point of sale for any items that they're selling within their stores. This is a good breakthrough, so we continue to talk to retailers about what they can do to help the public to keep their property safe.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): But I think unless there's a policy change and things like -- I mean, if people are able to get their phone back by monetary compensation or a replacement phone even if they haven't registered, then why would they change their behaviour? So therefore, I would argue that unless you register on IMMOBILISE, you shouldn't get your phone replaced. You should not get your insurance paid, because all we're doing is incentivising victims to not take care of themselves and that can't be a very sensible thing.

It's a bit of a pain to register, but all you've got to do at the beginning is give a number. It's not a massive pain, but there's no great incentive, it's an optional extra. I think the industry and the insurance industry has got to think about incentivising people to protect themselves. You know, we looked at cars I mean, they have to be registered --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Is that right, in order to get insurance for theft, you have to have registered a car with who?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): You have to register for another reason. You have to register to run it on the road, but registration is a vital thing. With a phone you don't need to register it to use it anywhere. But my argument is you ought to have to register it to get the compensation you require should it be stolen or lost.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): But I mean, a bicycle could equally be worth £500 and you don't have to register a bicycle.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): No, but we are seeing a rise in bicycle thefts as well.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Are we? Why has that been concealed from me?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Whenever companies incentivise people not to protect themselves, that's what happens. You see it with cybercrime, or you see it with stolen credit cards. If you have your credit card stolen, you will get compensated if a thief uses it. But of course, if you take reasonable precautions, that shouldn't always happen. So my point is, if a company has incentivised people to protect themselves, on the whole people will take reasonable steps.

But at the moment there's no real incentive to keep ourselves safe. So, I think whatever can be designed is a help.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Yes, I mean my bike has been registered with the police I suppose somewhere --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I mean, I won't embarrass anybody, but can anybody in this audience say what their IMEI number is? I mean, I can because I've got it in here. It's not that useful if it gets stolen, but the point -- I've put it somewhere else as well. But my point is that you wouldn't would you? It's a really difficult thing to change behaviour. But it's so fundamental, when this is not just the theft of a phone --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I'll tell you what, why don't we all try and discover our IMEI numbers now? How do you find out, I've got my phone here?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I'm not sure, on different phones I'm not sure I'm afraid.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): What is my IMEI number, how do I find it out, where do I go to, do I go to settings?

Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC: It's some combination of star, hash and zero six. You have to dial a code, I can't remember what the code is, has somebody got the code?

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): How can we expect the poor members of the public to do this and to register their numbers when we don't even know how to do it ourselves?

Jonathon Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): No, but my point is I'm sure that they were learn if they were about to lose £500 if they'd lost it or had it stolen.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Before we get to that stage, you've got to remember that people aren't in the habit of registering items in that way. I mean, you make a point about motor vehicles, but they register them for a separate reason. I think if we're going to say that the onus is on the public to register their IMEI numbers then we've got to know how on earth to find the thing. And I bet this is not something that's in wide circulation where people -- what is it, how do you do it?

Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC: You take your phone and you enter star, hash, zero, six, hash and press send.

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

Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC: Hash, zero, six, hash and press send.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Oh wait, I've got a number.

Jonathon Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member): No don't tell us.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well you'd better just check it against the stolen --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): It's a very long number. What do I do with it?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): You register it on the immobiliser database.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): You record it somewhere else. And then you register it at the --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Well I'm going to record it okay.

Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC: While you're writing that down shall we do the rest of the slides?

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): The remaining slides focus on the other trend types which are seeing an increase. So, this slide shows that recorded violence with injury -- that's VWI -- has increased across England and Wales. It shows the Metropolitan Police Service recorded levels of violence with injury in comparison to other forces in England and Wales and the most similar groups.

It clearly shows that increased compliance with national recording practices is believed to be largely responsible for the increase in recorded offending. But the increase in the Metropolitan Police Service has slowed, and I think we've discussed that offending point. If we move onto the next slide, it shows actually that if you look at performance for the MOPAC seven as a whole, if you look at those blue bars on the bottom, violence with injury is currently at 16 % above the baseline and that is the key risk for achieving the overall reduction of 20 %.

The increasing trend is evident in both domestic and non-domestic abuse and there is actually an interesting difference there. So, if you see that blue line that is very slowly going up, that is violence with injury related to domestic abuse. You see that the other line is going up faster, so violence with injury that's not related to domestic abuse continues to happen in the areas previously highlighted as hotspots and that's increased at a greater rate than domestic abuse and violence.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Since operation whatever it was called?

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): Equinox.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Equinox, yeah.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): If we move through to the next slide which is knife crime, which is as the Commissioner said, a particular area of focus. It is important to remember that knife crime in 2014 across London is at its lowest level in seven years. Overall, the total knife crime offences in London are down compared to the earliest comparable period in 2008 to 2009. In the year to June 2015, all knife crime has decreased by 20 % compared to 2009. Offences of knife possession have decreased by 30 % that's 1281 fewer offenses.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That could be simply a function of less stop and search.

Rebecca Lawrence (MOPAC Director of Strategy): We come to that later, but as you can see, knife crime offences are up against the same period the previous year. If you turn to the next slide, we see knife crime with injury -- this is quite a busy slide. It shows that there are variations in performance across London. So, knife crime with injury has seen an increase compared to previous years, and we look here at where that's happening.

In the year to June 2015, all knife crime with injury increased by 14 % compared to the year before. In terms of victims under 25, there was an increase of 22 % and almost half of all victims for knife crime with injury are under 25, nine in ten of these being males. Black men under 25 are victims of knife crime with injury more than any other demographic with 43 % of offences having victims with these characteristics.

Where are the parts of London where the rises have been highest? We've identified the particular neighbourhoods here. That's Plumstead in Greenwich, Northwest Southwark, Brick Lane in Globe in Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest South, Southwark Southeast, Haringey North and Shoreditch Hackney. In the next slide actually we look at some severity of injury. There have been fewer fatal victims of knife crime in the last year.

So, in the year to June 2015, there have been 12 fewer homicides than the previous 12 months. The proportion of youth victims of knife related homicide in the most recent year is the lowest of all the periods compared. But knife enabled homicides are still a significant proportion of all recorded deaths. Just under half of all knife related deaths in 2014 to 2015 involved young people.

The final slide looks at stops for offensive weapons. We see that stops -- as with stop and search in general, stop searches for offensive weapons have decreased significantly since March 2012, a 70 % reduction. 27 % of stop searches for this reason resulted in an arrest for any offence in the year to June, just up from 11 % in March 2012. And arrests specifically for offensive weapons have increased to 10 % compared to just 3 % in the year to March 2012.

This means that in the rolling year to June 2015, there were only 78 fewer arrests for offensive weapons from searches for this reason than March 2012, despite the large decrease in the number of stops conducted. And that I think is the end of the slides.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): That's the end of the slide show. Okay well look that is extremely interesting. I think the comfort we can take about the fatalities should in no way diminish our anxiety about the increase in the injuries and that is a real concern now. I mean, those are very substantial figures in some of those hotspots, those figures there. I don't know what -- I mean, we've had conversations many times about stop and search, about the Enfield law, about all that sort of thing. I think maybe it's time to bring all that together and see where we are with this stuff and see what impact those things we hope will have. I mean, what's your view Bernard?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): I think from what I can see over the last three to four years, three things have gone in tandem. If three things can go in tandem. But first of all, stop search has reduced by about two third. Violence has come down including stabbings. Murders and shootings have come down. Now, we knew that at that time I think we all agreed to reduce the amount of stop search, particularly for those people who have never been in trouble and never would be. We need to stop search the correct people.

I think there is some evidence that in fact that might have plateaued out. I think we've probably got to a point where if we carry on reducing stop search it could be an issue. So, we've said that we will increase the amount of targeted stop search, this is not a random event. So, we will look particularly obviously where the knife crime is at its height. And we've gone through the various boroughs as Rebecca has.

The second thing is that we are refocussing our gang work. We put 1200 officers into gang work. This is a collection of young offenders generally who are out there committing violence or theft. Although they've done very well and we've arrested a lot of people in the gangs, I think it needs to be refocused. So, we've got new leadership in there and I don't think they're doing bad things, but what there was some danger of was them going into long term jobs.

So, instead of focussing on the people out there carrying knives or guns, starting to get into the drug supply route. Now, somebody's got to do that, that's got to be dealt with. But on both grounds, we need to target our attention on those people who carry knives. The only final thing I would say to -- and hopefully this is going to be reported through the press as well -- is we need people to tell us who carries knives. They will know, somebody will know, you know a sister, a mother, or a friend. And we need people to tell us.

We can stop search people we believe carry knives, but people who we know carry them routinely, where they hide them, when they're going to use them in two hours' time, tell us. Because even if you think it's a bad thing for them to get arrested, I can tell you it's an even worse thing for them to get charged with murder.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Absolutely, or indeed to come to serious and possibly fatal harm themselves. I mean, that's the risk they run carrying a knife is that they themselves will be victims.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner) (MPS): Well, my big point always is that if you're in a gang of people and some carry knives, you're as likely to be attacked by them as anybody else. So, when they fall out with you they'll have a knife available. So, I think this is a serious issue. We're pleased with the progress we've made, but we've got to get it over to kids

in particular that it's not all right to carry knives. You will get locked up, and there is no time for carrying a knife to defend yourself, it will get used against you.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Absolutely. Faith, any thoughts on all this?

Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member): It strikes me looking at the slide we've got up there that this is more complicated in locality terms than the earlier slides we saw which were concentrating very much on four boroughs. Are there particular local preventative measures that can be put in place or are being put in place? Because those look like a real scattering around London.

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Of course, and tactics such as stop search need to be very localised to an area, because we know that these things don't happen right across London in a consistent way. So, we need to be in the right places at the right times, targeting the right people. And also having that relationship with the local community that they understand why we are doing the things that we are, and are helping us to do that with the right intelligence and with getting the messages to young people.

So, I think in areas like Lambeth and Islington, that work is very much underway, because we know the challenges within those localities. That's very much what I'm asking borough commanders and neighbourhood inspectors to do. To show that local leadership, to make sure that we're doing it in the right way with the right places. We've seen some both pleasing but worrying finds from our weapons sweeps. So, we know in some areas because young people anticipate that they may be searched they're stashing weapons away.

We get intelligence of where those places are and we do searches and we recover some quite horrendous --

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): I've seen the pictures of those extraordinary weapons.

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Exactly, and we share that really to bring the message home, that we are doing something about it. So, if you tell us where to look then we will. And when we recover weapons we don't just leave it at that, we do investigate and use techniques to try and find out who left it there. We'll then pursue them, arrest them and bring them before the courts as well.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Everybody knows that any kitchen devil is as useful as that thing in the papers frankly to -- Linda, is there any thoughts that you have on --

Linda Duncan (Chair of MOPAC/MPS Audit Panel): Thank you chair. Just that we focussed very much on the significant increase in street violence with injury. I just wanted for a moment to double back into looking at the domestic violence with injury which clearly shows a different increase pattern compared to that on the street. I just wondered, given that we've put a lot of time in and we've talked this about previous challenges. Into the national standard of standard operating procedures for domestic violence with injury. Whether that has had an impact on the pattern of increase over the last year?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Clearly, that increase in domestic abuse and violence within it is contributing to some of the increases we're seeing in violence overall. That is about increased confidence from the public. Also, in terms of our officers understanding the risk. I think one of the things that's pleasing is the reduction we've seen in repeat victims of domestic violence, which shows that some of the intervention that we're putting in place with partners -- both third sector and within local councils -- to work with victims, to get them out of situations to prevent further victimisation happening. This is a very important part of the piece.

We know that domestic violence is still underreported to us, and we need to be in those places, working with those victims.

Linda Duncan (Chair of MOPAC/MPS Audit Panel): So, the changes in national reporting standards haven't had as much impact on those increased numbers as the underlying underreporting of the crimes?

Helen King (Assistant Commissioner) (MPS): Here is a particularly important area for us to get our recording right. But one of the other drivers for it is the risk assessment that we do with victims. So, whenever we attend a domestic abuse incident, we're talking to the victim about previous issues and experiences they may have had that would indicate they are at higher or lower risk.

That sometimes means that they are sharing with us instances that happened previously. So, on this occasion the offender may not have been violent, but we are asking questions about what happened in the past. If they tell us about violence offences or sexual offences that have been committed against them previously, we're then capturing them, recording them, investigating them as part of the overall piece.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) (Chair): Good, okay well thank you. I mean, the big thing I take from this is that the increase in VWI which we had previously started to attribute to increases in domestic VWI and thought was a sort of benign thing in the sense that it showed greater reporting. It is pretty obvious that there is now a substantial increase in knife assisted VWI and we need to watch that. This is probably the -- there are lots of interesting things that have come out of this challenge, but I think that is the one that is of the greatest importance for the whole city. It's something that they really care about, they really worry about.

We've had great success in fighting knife crime, but we can't afford to let it slip. And I think that the remedies that you are talking about, stop and search, new penal approach to it have got to work. And I think the new focus on the key gang nominals and all that would undoubtedly be warmly welcomed by people across the city. This is a perennial scourge, it never quite goes away. It seems to be coming up a little bit again and I think if we can grip it, it will be fantastic.

Anything else anybody wants to raise otherwise I think this particular edition of the MOPAC Challenge at Islington -- clearly we've got an issue there, we'll have to work on theft in Islington, all that moped, iPad, bicycles and all that stuff. And I think on the IMEI numbers, before we start to blame the public for not noting their IMEI numbers, I think there needs to be a general cultural understanding of what these are and how to find them. Perhaps we need to think about doing some more work and publicity around that.

Thanks everybody, anything else anybody wants to raise? I think not. Thank you very much, the next edition of the MOPAC Challenge is in September, fantastic thank you very much.