

Unmesh Desai AM

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

Andrew Dismore AM

Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Chair of the Health Committee

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

**City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA**

(Via email)

4 July 2020

Dear Sadiq,

We are writing to ask that you consider taking two contingency steps in the light of the disturbances in London over recent weeks.

COVID-19 has caused upheaval and uncertainty on an unparalleled scale. Significant numbers of Londoners have been in a state of lockdown, housed in poor and claustrophobic housing for months. Many people across the capital have been furloughed, whilst others are facing real risk of redundancy, which is inevitably causing stress, anxiety and disquiet. The current summer weather and the restrictions due to the pandemic have in recent weeks seen people gathering in groups in parks or on streets outside.

The effects of such economic and social challenges, combined with the warm weather may well, in the coming weeks and as we enter summer, lead to rising tensions, as has been highlighted by a number of senior police officers. We would like to be reassured that you are working with civic and community leaders and the Met to prevent any public disorder in the first instance. Nevertheless, there should be contingency plans in place to deal with any potential public disorder if prevention strategies fail. Please will you take this opportunity to outline what steps you are taking to work with local residents and community groups to head off any potential disturbances.

The scale of the London riots of 2011 caught many off guard. Small operational issues around the distribution of officers and equipment led to wider disruption of the ability of our emergency services to counteract the effects of the riots.

Therefore, we would like to ask that you urge the emergency services under your charge to undertake a rapid review to make sure that they have all the necessary equipment in order to deploy quickly, safely and effectively in the event of any summer widespread disorder. Should any equipment shortages or training needs be identified, we ask that you assist the emergency services in rectifying these issues as a matter of urgency.

The current mix of social and economic disruption caused by COVID-19 mean that we cannot, and should not, be complacent at this time. All measures to prevent any disturbances need to be undertaken immediately to ensure our blue light services can deploy to protect Londoners.

Yours sincerely,



Unmesh Desai AM
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee



Andrew Dismore AM
Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Chair of the Health Committee