

Our Ref. AM23/2012



To Joanne McCartney  
London Assembly Member and Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

27 September 2012

Dear Joanne,

**Re. Operational Questions following the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 21 June**

I am pleased to provide you with a response to your enquiry directed to the Commissioner dated 28 June 2012. The Commissioner has acknowledged your enquiry and advised you that he will respond through MOPAC.

**Your Enquiry**

- *You expressed disappointment that the Commissioner was not at the meeting on 21 June.*
- *You set out a list of questions that dealt with operational matters for the Commissioner to answer.*
- *You included a formal invite to the Commissioner for attendance at future Police and Crime Commissioner Question and Answer Meetings.*

**MOPAC Response**

- I have discussed with you the respective roles of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Police and Crime Committee. The Commissioner and I are aware of your disappointment and we will continue to work closely with you and the Committee to ensure the respective roles can be carried out to best effect and to enable us all to fulfil our functions.
- I attach responses on the operational matters you were investigating that the Commissioner has passed through my office.
- I note your formal invitation to the Commissioner and he had confirmed to you that he will attend the meeting on 19 July 2012.

I hope this deals with the matters you have raised. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Greenhalgh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen Greenhalgh  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

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## OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

#### **1 What lessons were learned from the policing of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and how will these be used to inform planning for the Olympics?**

The policing of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, demonstrated the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) ability to handle both major and large scale public events. It has helped shape important learning for the policing of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Such learning includes:

- crowd control management;
- safety and security;
- officer and resource mobilisation;
- continued local neighbourhood policing;
- responding to urgent calls from the public;
- the need for flexibility at major public events was also reinforced.

Many of the Olympic Protection Command Team were engaged in the planning and delivery of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee events and are now focused on applying their knowledge and experience to the Games.

#### **2 What tactics worked well?**

With millions estimated to have attended, crowd control management tactics - which included the policing of controlled areas and public spaces - and the movement of people into and out of central London, worked well. The public's safety and security was successfully achieved. There were only 31 arrests.

#### **3 What was the cost of the operation?**

The cost of the operation is estimated at £12.33m, with 17,000 police officers and staff drawn from across the MPS.

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### Operation of the MPS Sapphire Unit

#### 4 How many cases of rape and serious sexual violence have been investigated by the Sapphire Unit since its formation and how many of those cases had been 'shelved' without an arrest or further investigation?

In general, the MPS investigates every single allegation of crime that is reported to it, looking into the specific circumstances. Lines of inquiry are followed as far as they can be for each individual crime. It is after this primary investigation stage that a decision is made as to whether the crime will be passed to a dedicated investigator for further investigation, or closed at that stage until further information comes to light.

With regards to allegations of rape or serious sexual assault, no cases are 'shelved' at the primary investigation stage. All are automatically passed on to a dedicated investigator to receive a secondary investigation.

Since its formation, the Sapphire Command has dealt with the number of crimes shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**

		Total	%
Rape	Number of recorded crimes	7,999	89%
	Number recorded as no crime	946	11%
	Total	8945	
Other sexual offences	Number of non rape recorded crimes	2430	93%
	Number of non rape crimes recorded as no crime	177	7%
	Total	2607	

The Home Office Counting rules stipulate that a crime once recorded should be classified as a 'No Crime' if one of the following criteria is satisfied:

- The crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded. (Crimes committed within the jurisdiction of another police force area should be referred to the respective force.)
- Where following the report of an incident which has subsequently been recorded as a crime, additional verifiable information is available which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed.
- If the crime, as alleged, constitutes part of a crime already recorded
- If the reported incident was recorded as a crime in error.

#### 5 How many cases have been reopened as a result of: i. the dismissal last year of DC Coleman-Farrow; and ii. the officer arrested on 8 June 2012? Have there been any arrests as a result?

The concern regarding the high profile cases of misconduct in relation to two officers, DC Ryan Coleman-Farrow and DC Carl Ryan is understandable.

DC Coleman-Farrow was an officer working on Sapphire Team 11, which covers the boroughs of Kingston and Richmond. His conduct came to light in August 2010 as a result of supervisory concern about his sickness record and his inability to cope with his work load. An investigation of his outstanding cases identified that between September 2009 and August 2010 Coleman-Farrow falsified entries on crime reports, statements and other evidential material in order to expedite the closure of cases. The matter was immediately referred to the Department of Professional Standards (DPS) and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and Coleman-Farrow was the subject of fast-track

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dismissal from the MPS in April 2011. He was charged with 13 counts of Malfeasance (Misconduct in a Public Office) in May 2012. He is due to appear at Southwark Crown Court on 24th August.

- i) With regard to Coleman-Farrow's caseload, 30 investigations were reviewed. Of these four were live at the time of management intervention and were re-allocated to officers from Team 13, nine were referred to the DPS and five were allocated to the Continuous Improvement Team for further investigation and remedial action where appropriate. No additional arrests emanated from the review process.

DC Ryan worked on Sapphire Team 3, which covers the boroughs of Camden and Islington. His conduct came to light as a result of supervisory concern regarding the quality of his work. The officer had been on performance measures since November 2011. In April 2012, as part of this process, more serious misconduct was identified and it was suspected that DC Ryan had falsified statements. The matter was referred to the DPS and the IPCC. He was suspended from duty in May and was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in a public office in June.

- ii) The review of cases assigned to DC Ryan is currently on-going, under the auspices of Operation Homathko. In total 36 investigations have been re-allocated to officers from the Cold Case Team and the Serious Case Team. No arrests have taken place yet, but the investigation is at a relatively early stage in the process.

### **6 How many women have come forward to have their cases reviewed and what support are you offering them? How are you proactively contacting women?**

With regards the Coleman-Farrow case, one victim came forward after becoming aware of media coverage. The investigation was reviewed but no additional evidential or judicial opportunities were identified.

So far in the Carl Ryan case no-one has come forward.

The MPS has been contacting victims individually, wherever possible through the Sexual Offences Investigation Team officers, who are also coordinating their care and support.

### **7 How have the problems arisen?**

It is apparent from the outline given that supervision of these officers did not capture the conduct of these officers at an early stage. This needs reviewing.

### **8 The Unit was put together to create a consistent approach to the investigation of rape and serious sexual assault – to what extent has it succeeded in this aim?**

In 2009 the MPS changed the way it investigated and recorded rape offences through the creation of the Sapphire Command, a single, dedicated command providing consistent support through experienced, highly trained officers. In addition to the creation of a single rape charging centre, where MPS officers and CPS London work closely together, the MPS has been working to ensure more consistency and better decision making in rape prosecutions and increase the number of prosecutions undertaken.

#### Current performance

Recorded rape offences have risen since the creation of the Sapphire Command. The MPS states this is largely attributable to changes in crime recording standards brought about with the introduction of the Sapphire Command and an increase in people coming forward to report offences. Despite an increase in reporting the MPS view remains that rape remains significantly under reported.

As well as improving victim confidence the MPS has a target to increase sanction detections for rape. The MPS sanction detection rate for rape so far this financial year stands at 18.5% [95 detections to 3rd June]. This compares with 13.7% last year [80 detections]. The aim this year is to increase the sanction

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detection rate by 6% on last year. Progress is being made towards meeting the 588 Sanction Detection rate set for this year. This is part of the overall plan over a three year period to increase the overall number of detections to the highest level ever.

DAC Martin Hewitt, who is also the national ACPO lead for Rape and Serious Sexual Assault, has taken on responsibility for monitoring rape performance in the MPS through an internal London-wide performance regime, "Crime Fighters", and the introduction of the Rape Performance Improvement plan. Through these processes, the consistency and quality of decision-making will be scrutinized. The MPS will be in a better position to then report on the extent to which the aims of the Unit are being achieved.

### **9 What changes are you making and how are you taking account of the MPA's recommendations in this area from September 2011**

An MPS Rape Performance Improvement Plan is currently being developed that builds on previous work, including drawing from the MPA's recommendations from September 2011. The Improvement Plan will look at a number of key themes:

- Partnership working with CPS to ensure interaction early in the criminal justice process to secure more convictions;
- Improving processes to locate outstanding suspects, maximizing the full use of MPS resources and assets;
- Introduction of the Grip and Pace structure to ensure daily that all opportunities are taken to secure evidence and arrests;
- Review of Sexual Offences Investigation Team training programme to ensure that it is setting the right tone to maximize opportunities for apprehending offenders;
- Drive to enhance the service provided by the Havens to improve evidential opportunities

Progress of the Rape Performance Improvement Plan will be monitored through regular meetings chaired by DAC Hewitt.

Other recommendations from the MPA's report are incorporated into a MOPAC Rape Action Plan, which is being developed into a strategic, multi-agency plan.

Once approved, the plan will be shared with the Police and Crime Committee.

### **10 How can you assure Londoners that the Sapphire Unit is operating effectively on behalf of women who have been victims of sexual assault or rape?**

For some victims a criminal justice outcome will not be the most appropriate course of action. So the MPS is working closely with partners to support victims of serious sexual offences. The MPS is systematically analysing victims' feedback on their experiences to ensure consistency and levels of service are continually improved. Discussion would be welcomed on how to provide such assurance and measures of confidence.

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### The Royal Parks

#### 11 What changes have been made to policing arrangements for the Royal Parks since the MPS took on responsibility for them?

The policing of the Royal Parks is important to the MPS and no more so than this year. Not only have the Royal Parks been central to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this year but eleven Olympic and Paralympic events will take place across six Royal Parks during the London 2012 Games:

- Greenwich Park will host the Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events and elements of the Modern Pentathlon.
- Horse Guards Parade in St James' Park will host the Beach Volleyball competition.
- Hyde Park will host the Triathlon and Marathon Swimming competitions.
- The Mall in St James' Park will host the start and finish of the Road Race Cycling event, the Olympic and Paralympic Marathon and the Race Walk competition.
- Bushy Park will host part of the Road Race Cycling route and the men's Time Trial cycling race.
- Richmond Park will feature on the inbound and outbound route of the Road Race Cycling events.

In addition to this Hyde Park is set to host the largest live site in London.

Policing of the Royal Parks has, in no way, become less of a priority for the MPS. Since the Regent's Park rape, Royal Parks Officers, SNT & Sapphire Detectives have worked together on house to house and local enquiries. They are also conducting extensive CCTV enquiries, from the park outwards, including London Transport and Underground

They have distributed leaflets and potential witnesses have come forward and have been interviewed. The suspect's e-fit has been widely circulated and safety warnings made through the media. Forensic enquiries are also on-going. Royal Parks Teams have worked closely with Camden Borough and the Sapphire Command to ensure a coordinated and effective investigation.

#### Structure

The MPS took on the responsibility for policing the Royal Parks on 1st April 2004. At that time the Royal Parks OCU was created and for the first two years operated alongside the Royal Parks Constabulary in a co-policing arrangement ahead of a full legislative merger. That process reached its conclusion on 8th May 2006 when the Royal Parks Constabulary was finally disbanded. The Royal Parks OCU operates on a pan-London basis across five boroughs in which the various Parks are located. The OCU is unusual in that it is fully funded by The Royal Parks, an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The most significant relationship that the OCU has is with its funding body, The Royal Parks, but it also works in partnership with a number of other stakeholders including "The Friends of the Royal Parks and various Local Authorities. Tangible benefits were generated when the MPS assumed responsibility for the Royal Parks, for example, easier communication, together with stronger links and support from surrounding boroughs.

Five core teams give 24-hour coverage to the 17 Royal Parks, Gardens and other open spaces within the Metropolitan Police District - an area in excess of 6,000 acres. Each team consists of an Inspector, two Sergeants and up to 14 Constables working from the main Parks; St. James's Park and The Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Richmond Park, The Regent's Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park. They deal with the full range of operational policing issues.

The Royal Parks Agency is fully involved in policing. The Agency's Chief Executive gets sent daily crime reports across the Parks, with information about any serious crime that occurs, and meets at least monthly to discuss any trends or concerns.

There is a performance management framework in place, which holds Royal Parks officers accountable for reducing crime, increasing detections and enforcement of Royal Park regulations in their designated parks. This activity is monitored at daily Grip & Pace, and Senior Leadership Team performance meetings.

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Royal Parks police objectives for 2012/13 are, to: 1) reduce the number of violent offences; 2) reduce the number of acquisitive crimes, 3) reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, 4) enforce Royal Park regulations, 5) make Royal Parks roads safer, and 6) increase the number of sanctioned detections. (All as compared to the same period last year.)

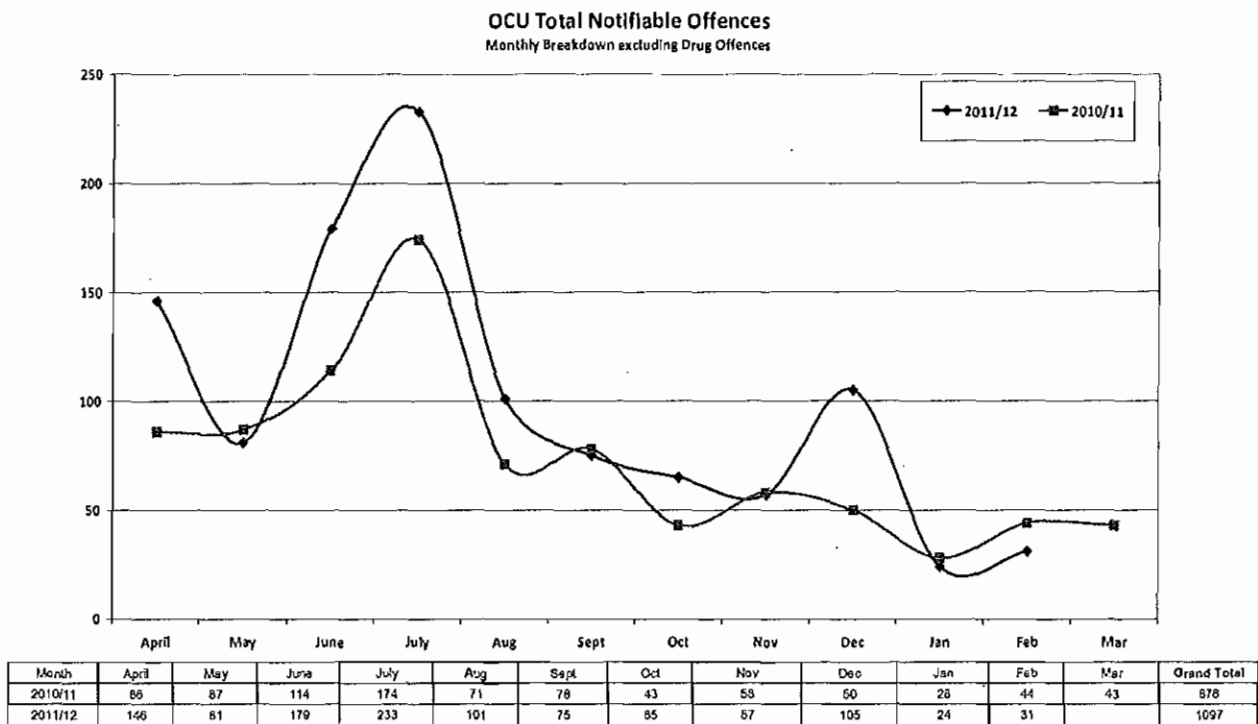
There are also local priorities for each park; ranging from speeding in Richmond Park to unauthorised cycling in Hyde Park.

### Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the Royal Parks have risen significantly since 2004. This coincides with the launch of large scale concerts and other events that have occurred since 2004. These events attract visitor numbers of over a million (Winter Wonderland established 2008), and up to 80,000 each for the Wireless (established 2005) and Hard Rock Calling (established 2006) Concerts.

The chart below shows the correlation between events and crime levels over the past two years. The first peak in June / July coincides with the concert season in Hyde Park. The second peak in December 2011 is Winter Wonderland. We acknowledge there is a correlation between the weather and crime trends in the Royal Parks, but logic alone dictates that events attended by up to 80,000 people generate crime.

### Total Crime Levels by Month for the Royal Parks 2010/11 and 2011/12



In respect of sexual offences the number of reports increased significantly between 2004 and 2005, then have remained at similar levels since each year. Violence against the person offences again increased significantly from 2004.

The LGBT community are also victims of a number of crimes within the Royal parks, particularly Hyde Park where an area is frequently used by the community after dark. Policing here is designed to be robust but sensitive to diversity.

Table 2

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Year	Sexual offences	Violence against the Person
2004	5	31
2005	28	134
2006	23	153
2007	31	194
2008	30	205
2009	26	217
2010	26	209
2011	30	186

The other key driver of an increase in crime has been a significant increase in the number of drug possession offences. This reflects a more proactive ethos by officers (drugs possession crimes rise when more people are searched and more drugs are found) and accounts for half of the overall increase in crime figures. See Table 3 below:



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**Table 3**

Year	Total recordable offences	Number that were detected drug offences	Number of remaining offences
2004	231	16	215
2005	916	72	844
2006	1422	468	954
2007	1732	768	964
2008	1874	988	886
2009	1904	948	956
2010	1742	816	926
2011	2373	1089	1,284

*Measures being taken to reassure park users [since the rape in Regents Park]?*

Serious sexual assaults, such as this stranger rape are very rare within the Royal Parks. The investigation (as outlined above) has involved leafleting and safety warnings. Messages clearly explaining what happened as well as the police response were put out through Safer Parks Panel members and local community groups.

We have been careful, however, not to create undue anxiety, and messages made clear that this attack was unprecedented in recent years. To protect and reassure, the Safer Parks Team also increased patrols in Regent's Park, and Westminster and Camden Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been updated. Major stakeholders are regularly briefed especially where such incidents impact on their potential confidence (e.g. Regents College)

Additionally, all such serious offences committed within the curtilage of the Royal Parks are reviewed by a dedicated Crime Prevention Design Advisor (CPDA). The Royal Parks CPDA provides crime prevention advice to victims and gives presentations to local community groups, residents and educational establishments.

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### Supervision of undercover officers

**12 What reviews are taking place into the MPS's management of covert work? What are the broad terms of reference for the reviews? When do you expect them to report back and when/how will the results be published?**

There are two reviews looking at the management of covert work in the MPS.

HMIC - A review of national police units which provide intelligence on criminality associated with protest. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary review was published in February 2012, following revelations about the activities of Mark Kennedy, a former MPS officer working undercover, that led to the collapse of the trial of six people accused of planning to shut down a large power station in Ratcliffe-on Soar, Nottinghamshire. It made a number of recommendations. The report and original terms of reference can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk/inspections/review-of-the-national-public-order-intelligence-unit-npoi/](http://www.hmic.gov.uk/inspections/review-of-the-national-public-order-intelligence-unit-npoi/).

Four recommendations were made concerning national police units which provide intelligence on criminality associated with protest. These are being managed by the MPS, as shown below.

- The arrangements for authorising those police undercover operations that present the most significant risks of intrusion within domestic extremism and public order policing should be improved. This is subject to an on-going review.
- In the absence of a tighter definition, ACPO and the Home Office should agree a definition of domestic extremism that reflects the severity of crimes that might warrant this title, and that includes serious disruption to the life of the community arising from criminal activity. This definition should give sufficient clarity to inform judgements relating to the appropriate use of covert techniques, while continuing to enable intelligence development work by police even where there is no imminent prospect of a prosecution. This should be included in the updated ACPO 2003 guidance. Domestic extremism is defined by the Home Office; the National Co-ordinator is in liaison with the Home Office to consider a new definition.
- The positioning of both public order intelligence and domestic extremism intelligence within the National Domestic Extremism Unit needs to be reconsidered. There will need to be an incremental transfer to any newly created hub for public order intelligence. This has now moved to the MPS under SO15.
- In recognition that undercover operations aimed at developing intelligence around serious criminality associated with domestic extremism and public order are inherently more risky, additional controls should be implemented. This has now been implemented.

#### Operation Soisson

The MPS is currently reviewing the actions, deployments and management of the Special Demonstration Squad, from its inception in 1968 to its closure in 2008. The review is being conducted by the Department of Professional Standards under the name, Operation Soisson. The MPS is engaging with the Independent Police Complaints Commission, the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The terms of reference for Operation Soisson are to:

- review the actions and deployments of the Special Demonstration Squad, its operatives and management;
- identify potential vulnerabilities for the MPS arising out of these deployments;
- identify any criminal or misconduct behaviour;
- disseminate organisational learning;
- assist in the preparation of MPS responses to civil litigation; and
- ensure proper responses to Freedom of Information Act requests received.

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Operation Soisson will also look into the recent allegations, reported in Parliament, regarding an undercover police officer leaving a firebomb in a Debenham's department store as part of his efforts to infiltrate the Animal Liberation Front. The MPS has referred this matter to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

There will be a public facing report published in due course.

### **13 How are you considering updating the arrangements for supervision of undercover officers?**

The following measures are in place:

- i) A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Crown Prosecution Service. It is focussed on cases involving the deployment of undercover officers. It provides a framework that will govern the consideration of evidence gathered during undercover police operations, charging, prosecution and disclosure. It sets out critical steps to be taken. A review will be conducted to assess impact after six months.
- ii) The learning from the reviews into undercover policing have been incorporated into the MPS training programmes for undercover officers and senior staff managing undercover operations.
- iii) The Association of Chief Police Officers has updated a manual providing guidance on the code of conduct for undercover police officers. This has been circulated to all police officers responsible for managing undercover operations. Supervisors will be expected to ensure that police officers are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- iv) A full review is underway regarding psychological support for undercover officers.

#### The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This document remains a restricted document for operational reasons, but, in the interests of openness and transparency, all parties have agreed that the following information can be released to outline publicly the steps that have been taken to improve the future handling of these cases. This applies where:

- (i) There is a use and conduct authorisation for the deployment of an undercover officer under Part II of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).
- (ii) The undercover officer has been authorised in circumstances in which a prosecution is contemplated, or where it has become apparent that there is the clear potential for a prosecution.
- (iii) The investigation is being carried out (alone or jointly) by any ACPO police force, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the UK Border Agency or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; and
- (iv) Any prosecution or advice on a possible prosecution would fall to be considered by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Closer working between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, and responsibilities in cases which involve undercover officers are set out as key roles within this framework. This will ensure that the best evidence is gathered and stronger cases are brought before the courts. Liaison between officers involved in the investigation and prosecutors responsible for the related prosecution should be early, full and frank. This will enable full and timely consideration of both investigator's and prosecutor's disclosure obligations, as well as any other evidential considerations which may apply. Early sight of the material gathered during undercover deployments will not only help the prosecutor to identify any other potential issues, but should aid with the often complex, and sometimes lengthy process of reviewing the evidence for a charging decision. These features will help to bring more successful prosecutions in a very complex area of law. The Memorandum of Understanding goes on to detail the individual roles and responsibilities at each stage of an investigation and prosecution: critical steps to be taken; how, when, and what communication should take place and how this should be documented. This framework is set out in clear terms for the first time, and will be reviewed after it has been in place for six months, so as to fully assess its implementation and impact.

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### Public order policing

#### **14 What lessons were learned from the policing of the Occupy London protest held outside the Bank of England on 12 May 2012?**

The City of London Police (CoLP) had overall operational responsibility for the policing of the Occupy London protest, with support, resources and logistics from the MPS. The key lesson appears to be around the need to improve joint planning between the MPS and the CoLP. MOPAC may seek a report on this.

#### **15 Why was a section 14 put in place and how do you respond to claims that the public were not informed of the reasons why it was required?**

Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986 is used to impose conditions on a public assembly where there is a reasonable belief of serious disorder occurring, serious criminal damage and serious disruption to the life of the community. The MPS states it recognises the importance to explain the operation of Section 14 when invoked, with both protestors and the public alike, in order to help facilitate peaceful. It would not be unreasonable to expect the organisers of the protest to be advised of why a Section 14 was being applied, its duration, geographical location and the number of protestors to which it applied. MPS officers were encouraged to communicate with the crowd in these circumstances to keep them informed of legal powers being applied and any subsequent developments. If these measures had not happened, the claims that the public are making may be justified.

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### Taser

#### **16a When will you be in a position to provide the Committee with the outcomes of the MPS review of Taser?**

The proposal to extend Tasers is an outcome of the review.

- The operational arrangements of Taser will be extended to all Territorial Support Group (TSG) units so that boroughs are able to deploy two Taser equipped vehicles to respond quickly and directly to emergency calls.
- An additional 22 Tasers will be deployed by the MPS taking the total number to 68.
- Five Boroughs (Harrow, Bromley, Barking and Dagenham, Enfield and Kingston) will have forty officers trained in the use of Taser by the time the Olympics start.
- Officers on the remaining boroughs will be trained after the Olympics.
- Each borough will be able to deploy two Taser equipped vehicles enabling boroughs to quickly and directly respond to emergency calls.
- A maximum of four Tasers will be available on the Borough at any one time to respond to violent incidents
- This is in addition to the support that TSG and CO19 provide. An extra 200 TSG officers will be trained in order to provide additional support to boroughs.

#### **16b What were the key considerations in deciding to roll out Taser vehicles to all boroughs? What alternatives, if any, were considered**

The decision to extend the use of Taser in the MPS included consideration of the use of Taser since 2003 and the changing landscape of physical risk in which officers have to operate.

#### **16c Who was consulted on this decision and what changes were made to the plans as a result? To what extent were communities consulted?**

The MPS Taser Programme Board and the Taser Engagement Board look at the use of Taser and the wider impact of that use on London in general.

These boards include and received views from external representatives including that from the MPS' Central Independent Advisory Group. The boroughs that are trialling the local use of Taser have a process of community engagement in place and this will continue as Taser is rolled out to further boroughs.

The then Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Kit Malthouse, was consulted. He sought assurances from the Commissioner regarding the governance structure and safeguards in respect of training and monitoring to satisfy his concerns. As a result, oversight mechanisms are in place with the MPS providing MOPAC with reports of every Taser discharge by borough officers on a weekly basis. The current Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, was not formally consulted as he took post after the initial roll-out had commenced. He recognises that the decision to extend Taser to a small group of specially trained officers on every borough is largely an operational matter, but given the controversy surrounding the use of this tactic, MOPAC will continue to oversee the roll out.

#### **17 Did the Mayor or the previous Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime express any concerns or make any comments on the roll-out? How did you seek/obtain political sign-off of the new arrangements?**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor receive ongoing briefing regularly on this matter.

When MOPAC replaced the MPA, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were made fully aware of the roll-out and were supportive of the decision to extend the use of Taser. As the rollout is implemented, MOPAC will continue to be fully involved through the Taser Programme Board and the Taser Oversight Board.

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The Mayor and Deputy Mayor recognise that the police need the right tools to police London effectively and that Taser has a role to play in this as long as appropriate safeguards are in place in respect of training, policy and governance. Given the significant community concerns that exist around the use of Taser by the MPS, MOPAC continues to have robust oversight over all Taser deployment across the MPS.

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### Acquisitive and knife crime

#### **18 To what extent do the recent figures suggest that previous initiatives to tackle rising rates of acquisitive crime have failed?**

Recent figures, between 1 April and 22 July 2012, indicate that

- overall property crime has reduced by 6.8%.
- robbery has reduced by 12.3%,
- residential burglary is down by 4.2%,
- theft of motor vehicles has reduced by 16.8%,
- knife crime is down by 22.5%
- knife robbery has reduced by 25.8%

Sanction detections rates

- for overall property crime have also risen to 10.1%
- for robbery they have risen to 15.2%.

This was on the back of an increase by 1.2% of overall property crime from April 2011 to April 2012, which the MPS have been working hard to reverse.

#### **19 What new measures are being implemented to address rises in acquisitive crime?**

A key measure was introduced in January 2012. The Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing convenes a monthly 'CrimeFighters' meeting to monitor acquisitive crime trends. CrimeFighters scrutinises performance and operational activity across the boroughs, as well as identifying good practice. Mobile phones remain a key item driving personal robberies. Measures to tackle this are continually being developed and intelligence is key, for example prompting a joint operation between Havering and Barking and resulted in three arrests and recovery of 600 phones and other stolen property.