

<b>MDA No.</b>	1	2	1	7
----------------	---	---	---	---

Title: PCC Annual Report

### **Executive Summary**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 16 September 2020, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree an Annual Report summarising the work of the Committee over the past year.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead members, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's Annual Report for 2019/20, attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead Members, agree the Police and Crime Committee's Annual Report for 2019/20.

### **Assembly Member**

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

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**

**Date** 24/09/20



**Printed Name** Unmesh Desai AM (Chair, Police and Crime Committee)

# Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

*Notes:*

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

**Background and proposed next steps:**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 16 September 2020, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree an Annual Report summarising the work of the Committee over the past year.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead members, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's Annual Report for 2019/20, attached at **Appendix 1**.

**Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision**

Signed by Committee		Date	21/09/2020
Services	L J Harvey		

Print Name: Lauren Harvey	Tel:	x4383
---------------------------	------	-------

**Financial implications NOT REQUIRED**

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

Signed by Finance	Date	.....
-------------------	------	-------

Print Name	Tel:	.....
------------	------	-------

**Legal implications**

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

Signed by Legal		Date	21/09/20
-----------------	---	------	----------

Print Name	Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer	Tel:	X 4399
------------	---------------------------------	------	--------

**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:**

Steve O’Connell AM  
Sian Berry AM  
Peter Whittle AM  
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

**Public Access to Information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 – Deferral**

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

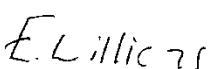
Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

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

**Is there a part 2 form - No**

**Lead Officer/Author**

Signed	.....	Date	23/09/20
Print Name	<b>Janette Roker</b>	Tel:	x6562
Job Title	<b>Senior Policy Adviser</b>		
Countersigned by Executive Director		Date	23/09/20
Print Name	<b>Ed Williams</b>	Tel:	X4399

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

## Work of the Police and Crime Committee in 2019-20



September 2020

Holding the Mayor to  
account and investigating  
issues that matter to  
Londoners

**LONDON**ASSEMBLY

# The London Assembly

The London Assembly is a crucial check on the powers of the Mayor of London. As the most powerful directly-elected politician in the UK, it is important the Mayor is held publicly and democratically accountable.

The Assembly examines the decisions and actions of the Mayor to ensure promises to Londoners are delivered and the money he spends, collected from Londoners, is wisely spent.

The 25 London **Assembly Members** are elected every four years at the same time as the Mayor of London. The Assembly holds the Mayor and Mayoral advisers to account by publicly examining policies and programmes. In addition, the Assembly questions the Mayor ten times a year at Mayor's Question Time.

Assembly meetings are open to the public, so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly can publicly review their performance.

As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital. The Assembly can advance or press for changes to mayoral or national policy.

## The Police and Crime Committee

The **London Assembly Police and Crime Committee** is a cross-party body. In 2019-20 it was chaired by Labour Assembly Member Unmesh Desai.

We examine the work of the Mayor and his Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), to make sure that he is delivering on the promises made to Londoners in his Police and Crime Plan. We also investigate other issues relating to policing and crime in the capital.

Our work involves a range of activities, including meetings with MOPAC, the Metropolitan Police and other organisations; site visits; written consultations; and roundtable meetings.

We hold a Question and Answer (Q&A) session in public every month with a representative from MOPAC—normally the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime—and a representative from the Metropolitan Police on current issues, to find out what they are doing to keep Londoners safe. We also carry out in-depth investigations into different topics, such as violence, domestic abuse, modern slavery and hate crime.

We routinely publish the findings and recommendations of our investigations, including the responses we receive from the Mayor. These can be found on our [investigations page](#).

# Your Police and Crime Committee Members this year were



**Unmesh Desai  
AM (Chair)  
Labour**



**Len Duvall AM  
Labour**



**Steve O'Connell  
AM (Deputy  
Chairman)  
Conservative**



**Florence  
Eshalomi AM MP  
Labour**



**Tony Arbour AM  
Conservative**



**Susan Hall AM  
Conservative**



**Sian Berry AM  
Green**



**Caroline Pidgeon  
MBE AM  
Liberal Democrat**



**Andrew Dismore  
AM  
Labour**



**Peter Whittle AM  
Brexit Alliance  
Group**



# Unmesh Desai AM

## Chair of the Police and Crime Committee 2019-20



It brings me great pleasure to introduce the 2019-20 Annual Report of the Police and Crime Committee, in what marks my first year as Chair of the Committee.

Over the last year, we have seen the acute challenges posed by increased levels of serious violence in the capital. We have also seen a growth in particularly heinous crimes, such as sexual offences, modern slavery and domestic abuse.

The nature and scale of crime committed in London in 2019-20 underlines the unique and important role the Police and Crime Committee plays in holding to account the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). We have worked to ask the questions to which Londoners rightly want and deserve answers. Sometimes our questions have been uncomfortable for senior officers in authority, but ultimately our role is to scrutinise the Mayor, senior officials and the Met's police and crime activities to improve outcomes for Londoners.

This Annual Report highlights our vital work in pursuing investigations that matter to Londoners, including our recommendations to the Mayor, the Met, MOPAC and

others to improve their response to police and crime issues in London.

Among our investigations over the last year, we highlighted the particularly destructive impacts of domestic abuse and modern slavery in London. The investigations led to a call for action to the Mayor to improve his response to both issues.

I am particularly proud of our intensive investigation into the proliferation of hate crime in the capital. Crucially, our approach to the investigation looked at what partners could do to tackle hate crime, not just the role of the Mayor and the Met. The police have an important role to play, but if our investigations have highlighted anything it is that many of the police and crime issues facing London are complex and multi-faceted, and require a sophisticated, joined-up approach if there is to be an effective response.

Looking forward, the Committee will continue to play its important role in holding senior officials to account as they tackle the unprecedented challenges caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

I would like to thank everyone that has supported the Committee's work over the last year.

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair, Police and Crime Committee**

# What we have done this year



## *Tackling violent crime*

- In April 2019, we met the Director of the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to assess the early development and future plans of the VRU. The meeting focussed on the strategic vision for the VRU, its emerging work programme and the development of local VRU hubs across the capital. We have continued to scrutinise the role of the VRU, most recently with a [letter](#) listing ten recommendations in relation to: the progress and performance of the VRU; its key performance indicators; its work with pupil referral units; and those schools that are underperforming in their efforts to prevent violence.

## *Tackling hate crime*

- In May 2019, we held a meeting with experts across London to discuss the Mayor's progress in tackling hate crime. We focussed on how the Mayor is delivering

better support for victims of hate crime and how third sector organisations can assist the Mayor and the Met's response.

- Following on from this meeting, we progressed our hate crime investigation, culminating in the publication of our [report](#) in September 2019. The report detailed a series of recommendations for the Mayor to adopt and improve his response to rising hate crime in London. For example, we called on the Mayor to expedite the roll out of the Met's school education programme on hate crime. The report was [launched](#) at Chelsea Football Club with Carlton Cole, former Chelsea and West Ham football player, and organisations working across the city to tackle hate crime and support victims. There was extensive coverage of the report and its findings across broadcast and print media, including BBC London, the Evening Standard and LBC.



### *Sexual offences and rape*

- We conducted a short and intensive investigation on sexual offences and rape, specifically examining how the introduction of Basic Command Units (BCUs) have affected the Met's response to rape and other sexual offences; and to assess the Mayor's progress in delivering his commitments to support victims. As part of the investigation, we visited the Met's Central South and South West BCUs and heard from representatives from services providing support to survivors of rape and sexual offences in London.

### *Modern slavery*

- In September 2019, we held a bespoke meeting on Modern Slavery, at which we heard from a range of organisations involved in tackling modern slavery in London. The session enabled us to assess the effectiveness and impact of the London Modern Slavery Partnership Board, the support available to victims and the Met's response.
- We published a [letter](#) to the Mayor in January 2020 outlining the findings from the investigation. In the letter, we called for more detectives to be assigned to the Specialist Crime and Vulnerabilities Unit, which deals with Modern Slavery cases.

### *Violence against women and girls (VAWG)*

- In December 2019, we were updated on the progress and delivery of the Mayor's VAWG Strategy and VAWG fund. We also received an update from the

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on the Mayor's activity to address VAWG.

### *Domestic abuse*

- We investigated domestic abuse in London and found that in 2019 there were just over 85,000 domestic abuse offences recorded by the Met, compared with around 46,000 in 2018. The Committee produced a [report](#), which recommended that the Mayor improves his response to domestic abuse and service provision for victims across London.

### *Holding the Met and MOPAC to account*

- In November 2019, we met with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to discuss its PEEL inspection of the Met and the Met's learning from Sir Richard Henriques' Independent Review.

### *MOPAC commissioning practice*

- We investigated the commissioning practices of MOPAC with the objective of improving awareness of MOPAC-commissioned services. In January 2020, we met services commissioned by MOPAC, including Safer London, Oxygen and the London Borough of Southwark, as well as MOPAC's Head of Commissioning. We used the meeting to examine MOPAC's added value to crime and disorder reduction, particularly relating to youth violence, and the provision of support for victims of crime.

- Following this meeting, we published a [letter](#) to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime outlining the findings from our investigation. The Committee set out recommendations to improve transparency, streamline and clarify the commissioning process and publish more readily available data, including on outputs and effectiveness.

#### *Live facial recognition technology*

- Following a meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM, the Met Commissioner, in February 2020, we published letters to the Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime expressing concern about the introduction of live facial recognition technology and the lack of national guidelines. We also sought further data on the deployments that had already taken place ahead of live deployment.

#### *Released Under Investigation (RUI)*

- In March 2020, we wrote a [letter](#) to the Home Office to recommend a change in the way RUI is used for serious offenders. The letter followed a meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and Sir Stephen House QPM, the Deputy Met Commissioner, where it was indicated steps were being taken to reduce the use of RUI and reintroduce bail.

## Domestic Abuse

Our [report](#) on Domestic Abuse brought together the Committee's investigation and highlighted sixteen recommendations for the Mayor, MOPAC and the Met to improve current practice in this area.

During the investigation, we held an informal briefing with Hestia and Rise Mutual, both of which are charities that support victims of domestic abuse, to explore the challenging nature of domestic abuse. This included a focus on the increase in financial and coercive control; the use of technology to carry out abuse; and the need to look at the prevalence, impact and perceptions of domestic abuse across different generations. We also looked at refuge, IDVAs (Independent Domestic Abuse Violence Advocates) and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) support across London. We held a public meeting with a range of organisations to hear about the experiences of those working to tackle abuse and what more is needed from the Mayor, MOPAC and the Met on this issue.

We found:

- Domestic abuse in London takes a variety of forms and is significant in scale, accounting for one in ten offences recorded by the Met. We heard that coercive control “is pretty much present in most incidents reported” and accounts for between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of survivors who approach Advance Charity.



- The Mayor aims to encourage more victims of domestic abuse to come forward, but research suggests that this may not be the main factor behind the increase in reporting. More is needed to raise awareness of impact of domestic abuse and to raise victims' confidence in reporting.
- More should be done to ensure that the Met uses its powers more effectively to protect victims of domestic abuse, recognising that the issue is placing a high demand on the police service.
- The Mayor has made some progress on supporting victims of domestic abuse through his VAWG strategy, however the overall approach risks missing out and excluding certain groups of victims.
- There should be a greater focus on the prevention of domestic abuse, particularly through a public health approach to prevention.
- There should be a Domestic Abusers Register. The London Assembly has previously campaigned on this issue and the Domestic Abuse investigation has highlighted the pressing need for it.

The Committee's report posed sixteen recommendations to the Mayor and the Met Commissioner, including: the Mayor should consider having measurable targets for reducing the attrition rate in domestic abuse cases and should provide ringfenced funding to ensure dedicated domestic abuse services for children and young people.

# Hate Crime

In September 2019, we published the Committee's work on the impact of rising [hate crime](#) in London.

Three quarters of Londoners say that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on together. But despite this, the Met is recording year on year increases in all types of hate crime, in line with a national trend.

The Committee's investigation looked at the Mayor's progress in protecting Londoners from hate crime; his progress in delivering better support for victims of hate crime; the effectiveness and impact of the Met's operational response; and the role of third sector organisations.

On 23 May 2019, we held a public meeting with six charities working to tackle hate crime. In addition, we gathered written evidence from a variety of interested organisations to inform the investigation, representing the police, local government and the third sector.

The evidence we heard suggested that, while some progress is being made, there are further steps that the Mayor needs to take to achieve a reduction in hate crime. This includes awareness training, working with offenders and providing suitable funding to support as many victims as possible. The Committee also found that the Mayor needs to better demonstrate the difference

that is being made by the police, courts and specialist support services, so that, no matter where someone lives in London, or who they are, if they experience hate crime they can have the confidence it will be dealt with and can rely on getting the support that they need.

The report and its recommendations were welcomed, including by the Met and Inclusion London, a charity supporting the capital's deaf and disabled people's organisations. The Met stated that it would take on board the report's recommendations as part of a review of its response to hate crime, including BCU based safeguarding risk and organisational learning reviews.

You can view the launch of the report, which took place at Chelsea Football Club with Carlton Cole, [here](#).



# Sexual Offences and Rape

In November 2019, we published the Committee's work on [sexual offences and rape](#) and the role of the Mayor and the Met in tackling these issues.

We examined how the introduction of BCUs had affected the Met's response to rape and other sexual offences, as well as the broader ongoing pressures across the criminal justice system in tackling these crimes. We spoke to officers working in BCUs about their experiences and heard from specialist support services about the impact of the change on their work and on the experiences of survivors.

In addition to ongoing issues with investigations, evidence and prosecutions, our work highlighted that a reduction in the timeliness and quality of communication between the police, specialist services and survivors appeared to be emerging following the transition to the new working arrangements.

We found:

- The Mayor's approach to rape and sexual offences must focus more strongly on victim confidence.
- The demand on police officers dealing with rape and sexual offences is well recognised: steps are needed to alleviate that pressure and mitigate further problems in the future.

- The BCU model risks exacerbating a reduction in victim satisfaction with the police.
- The Met is struggling to keep up with the growth in digital evidence and complexity of cases. MOPAC needs to tackle this issue urgently.

In [response](#) to our letter to Sophie Linden, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, MOPAC made a clear commitment to prioritise the Committee's recommendations.

## Question and Answer sessions

Throughout 2019-20, we have scrutinised the Met and MOPAC at monthly Question and Answer sessions.



This year, we discussed over 40 different topics at Q&A meetings. These are just some examples:

- Violent crime
- Stop and search
- Preparations for a no-deal EU exit
- Operation Midland
- Notting Hill Carnival

- Antisocial behaviour
- Women in the criminal justice system
- London Bridge attack
- Extinction Rebellion and the policing of protests
- The Met's structural changes, including the closure of police stations and public access to the police and recruitment of police officers
- We heard from the Met Commissioner in October 2019 and February 2020, where we questioned the Commissioner on a number of topics, including: a rising trend in violence; police officer growth; support provided to police officers; changes to the Met's estate; facial recognition technology; and the Streatham terrorist attack.



## Visits and other meetings

- In April 2019, we met representatives of the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit to assess the early development and future plans of the Unit.
- In June 2019, MOPAC provided a briefing to the Committee on its work with the Met to improve police-community engagement structures and processes.
- In September 2019, we met representatives of MOPAC, the Met and the third sector to discuss the effectiveness of London agencies in tackling modern slavery.
- In October 2019, the Chair attended a weapon sweep in Camden, which was also attended by the Met Commissioner and the Mayor.





- In November 2019, HMICFRS provided an update to the Committee on its work inspecting the Met.
- In December 2019, MOPAC provided a briefing to the Committee on the Mayor’s VAWG commitments and additional funding.

## Our work for 2020-21

This year we are continuing to hold the Mayor to account for his commitments in the Police and Crime Plan and examining the issues that matter to Londoners.

We will also continue our regular examination of MOPAC and the Met through our Q&A meetings, looking at topics such as the Met's response to COVID-19, violent crime, drug supply, domestic and child abuse, the Met's workforce, policing of protests, disproportionality, radicalisation and live facial recognition technology.



## Elsewhere in the London Assembly

The Assembly has agreed statements put forward by individual Assembly members which relate to policing and crime. These include:

### **Spit Guards**

The Assembly called on the Mayor to support the Met Commissioner in piloting and consulting communities on the full use of spit guards to ensure the safety of police officers, in line with the majority of other forces in England and Wales.

### **Police Officer Pay**

Following previous London Assembly motions on police officer pay, in July 2019, the Assembly called on the Mayor to write to the Government to request a pay rise for police officers. The Assembly also called on the Government to fully fund the cost of any pay rise announced in the 2019/20 police pay awards to give the Met the confidence to fairly remunerate police officers for their outstanding work keeping London safe, without the need to compromise other parts of the Service.

### **Personal Attacks**

Following politically-motivated attacks in London, the Assembly called on the Met to enforce the law fully when a personal attack occurs, from aggressive intimidation,

harassment and online abuse to milkshake throwing, physical violence and worse.


## **Recruitment of Police Officers**

Following the Government's announcement of an intention to recruit 20,000 police officers in England and Wales, the Assembly called on the Mayor to continue to make requests for the additional 5,000 officers for London. The Assembly also suggested that the Mayor requests assurances that the Government will fully fund the total cost of hiring new officers, including costs for police equipment, training, salary costs and pension costs.



As the Government announced a recruitment target of 1,369 officers in London by 2020/21, the Assembly raised concerns about the lack of clarity over how the Met could reach the target. The Assembly called on the Government to agree to a sustained funding settlement for all police forces.

# How can I get involved in the Committee's work?

- Contribute to our investigations. Details on our current work can be found on the [Police and Crime Committee webpage](#).
- Get in touch with us via [policeandcrimecommittee@london.gov.uk](mailto:policeandcrimecommittee@london.gov.uk).
- Raise issues of concern with [Assembly Members directly](#).
- Tweet us [@LondonAssembly](#) and follow Committee Twitter conversations with #AssemblyPolice. 
- [Watch our meetings live](#) from your computer, mobile or tablet.



Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Enquiries 020 7983 4100  
Minicom 020 7983 4458  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)