

<b>MDA No.</b>	1	2	4	7
----------------	---	---	---	---

Title: Letter to Commissioner – Domestic Abuse

### **Executive Summary**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 11 November 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 any outputs arising from the meeting.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on domestic abuse and Christmas. Attached at **Appendix 1**.

The letter will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, agree the Committee's letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on domestic abuse and Christmas, attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **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** 14/12/20



**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 11 November 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 any outputs arising from the meeting.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on domestic abuse and Christmas. Attached at **Appendix 1**.

The letter will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

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

Signed by Committee Services	L J Harvey	Date	1/12/2020
------------------------------	------------	------	-----------

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 2/12/20

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

J Roker

Date

7/12/20

Print Name

**Janette Roker**

Tel: x6562

Job Title

**Senior Policy Adviser**

Countersigned by  
Executive Director

*E. Williams*

Date 8/12/2020

Print Name

**Ed Williams**

Tel: X4399

**City Hall**

The Queen's Walk

More London

London SE1 2AA

Tel: 020 7983 4000

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

# LONDON ASSEMBLY

**Unmesh Desai AM**

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee

**Cressida Dick DBE QPM  
Commissioner**

(Sent by email)

12 December 2020

**Domestic Abuse and Christmas**

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for taking the time to appear before the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee on 11 November 2020. Our Committee is keen to pick up on some of the points you made during the meeting on domestic abuse incidents throughout COVID-19 and the rise in cases across the capital.

Our Committee welcomes the work that you, the Mayor and the Government have done in this area so far this year. Support for victims of domestic abuse is in high demand as people are spending more time in their homes than ever before. Reported domestic abuse incidents are at an all-time high this year and our Committee wants to ensure that more work is done to protect victims from suffering as we enter the Christmas period.

Christmas time is special for many people in London, but others worry about spending so much time at home, particularly if they live with an abusive partner or family member. Christmas this year is going to be different to any other year in recent memory, which is why we want to ensure that the Met has a plan in place to respond to a possible increase in domestic abuse incidents over the

coming weeks.

Domestic abuse incidents in December have risen by over a third over the past 10 years. In December 2010, 1,554 domestic abuse incidents with injury were recorded in London compared to 2,031 in December 2019. While domestic abuse cases have been rising year on year since 2010, there is also a worrying trend that cases are annually higher in December when compared to November and January. This is likely linked to families being at home more in December compared to other months of the year, and we feel that this could be exacerbated by having to spend more time at home during COVID-19, higher alcohol consumption over the festive period, whilst Christmas also brings a lot of extra stress on families, including financial worries which may have been intensified by the pandemic. Our Committee wants to ensure that the Met is working on a plan to protect victims of domestic abuse as lockdown measures are eased, and especially as some COVID-19 restrictions will be in place over the Christmas period.

If you could outline what you are planning to do to support and help victims of domestic abuse and how you plan to respond to the possible rise in incidents over the Christmas period, including the specific points below, our Committee would very much appreciate it.

- We understand that the Met is on track to deliver Predatory Offender Units (POUs) on every Basic Command Unit that will provide proactive policing against domestic abuse offenders and the Dauntless+ system. How many of the POUs are currently operational, and what is the timescale for roll-out, and how will they be tracking the most prolific offenders through December and the New Year period?
- Our Committee has heard that social media campaigns can be highly effective in targeting victims who do not report domestic abuse. Consequently, these campaigns can have a positive impact on increasing reports of domestic abuse. To what extent does the Met use social media to encourage victims of domestic abuse to come forward and report and has it considered providing additional resources to use social media to promote support for victims over Christmas?
- The recent announcement by the Mayor that he is investing £3.7 million to support domestic abuse victims and survivors, including £700,000 for new training for police officers to improve the response given to survivors of domestic abuse, as part of a package, is welcomed. How is this funding supporting the service the Met provides to protect victims of domestic abuse and help bring perpetrators to justice over Christmas?

We would be grateful to receive a response to the issues raised in this letter by 21 December 2020.

Yours sincerely,

  
V. Desai

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**

Cc: Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime