

Police and Crime Committee

26 June 2014

Transcript Item 5: Question and Answer Session with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the Metropolitan Police Service

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Good morning, everybody. We cannot start the formal part of our business yet, so I am afraid we will have to do that in a second. Mr Mackey, if you could update us on the homophobic crime that happened last week?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You know there have been two homophobic incidents recently. There was the squirting of liquid in the face of someone in Vauxhall on 8 June that received a lot of publicity; and there was the Whitechapel incident on 13 June, where two men were assaulted whilst withdrawing money from a cash machine. Both of those investigations are live and in both cases arrests have been made in relation to both incidents; and there are people who have been interviewed and are going through various processes in relation to them.

We are doing a whole range of work as part of the work around hate crime. One of the perennial questions is whether homophobic crime is rising or falling. The difficulty is the numbers are so small and the under-reporting, we believe, is so high that it is difficult to draw direct correlations from it. We are doing a range of work with both local communities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, both to provide reassurance and also to explain where we have got to in relation to those two particular crimes.

As I said, in both cases there have been arrests made. If there is a reassuring thing in both, it is that the arrests were made relatively quickly afterwards. There was a lot of support from the community. You will remember the incident in Vauxhall attracted a lot of media attention and that was very helpful in terms of the support we had around it.

In the longer term, obviously the work we do around homophobic crime and the Community Safety Units is there, and that continues in terms of that long-term work. In those two, both have had arrests. We hope that the profile and the speed of those arrests act as some deterrence in this sort of area and reinforce the seriousness with which we treat these offences because, they are abhorrent.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I have been told that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) was very good about staying in touch with the gay community, asking for witnesses and that sort of thing and immediately let people know when there was an arrest. So it sounds as if you are getting that right. That is really good.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Thank you, Chair. It is a tribute to the work. As you know, we have 155 LGBT liaison officers and we have 500 officers who work in specialist investigation around hate crime and these high-profile crimes in Community Safety Units. Now each of them is overseen by a detective sergeant, so we attach a real significance to doing these because they do impact on community confidence, particularly communities who already feel vulnerable.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): John?

John Biggs AM: Thank you for your answer on that. Following the two attacks, the one in Whitechapel and the one in south London, do you feel there is a rise in homophobic tension in London?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is very difficult to say you can correlate it across the piece. There are clearly tensions in particular areas and we have seen two examples here where clearly it spills over. It probably relates to the answer I gave slightly earlier. We are still in a position where we do not know the true extent of this type of crime. It is very difficult to say, "This means, therefore, it is going up or down or it is worse than it was three, six or eight months ago". It might be, I suspect, sadly - and it saddens me as a professional - that there may well be people who are either listening or hear these attacks and think, "That happened to me and I never reported it". It is very difficult to say. I am not picking anything up that could give you an evidence base to say that tension overall is rising or falling around this.

John Biggs AM: I have to be careful quite how I phrase this, but there did appear to be some cultural issues at least in one of these attacks in terms of the assailants and their background. Certainly there was a pattern, with alleged vigilantism in the Spitalfields area some time ago, which raised some concerns. Do you have any particular observation on that?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Like you, I am careful about making assumptions on a small sample size because we are talking about two crimes here. However, if you go back to those wider issues around tensions between and within communities, it is very much that space in which we work a lot of the time. We are very clear. The standards around the law are clear. The standards around these offences are clear. Those are the standards which we apply in relation to these.

John Biggs AM: Clear statements from community leaders would be very welcome?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Clear statements from people about the unacceptability of any crime that involves an element of hate and any crime at all. I know communities and many of the support groups are doing a lot of work around this on a daily basis in communities and boroughs.

John Biggs AM: I am wondering, finally, then, what you are doing to encourage people to feel confident in reporting?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Some of it - not least of which is today's event and people hearing and talking about it - is in the approach we make going into communities; and going back to the deployment of specialist officers and officers with particular skills and sensitivities. If I look, as someone who has been around policing for getting on for 30 years, at the approach to hate crime, it is where we have made some real cultural changes that I hope are well and truly embedded for the long term.

John Biggs AM: OK. Thank you, Chair.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Before we go on to the other issues that Assembly Members would like updated, I will have to do the formal bit of the business now.

Welcome to this meeting of the Police and Crime Committee. Our Chair, Joanne McCartney, is unable to be here today, so I am chairing in her place. Let me welcome you both, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Stephen Greenhalgh and Deputy Police Commissioner Craig Mackey. There was another issue that Assembly Members wanted to bring up. Tony?

Tony Arbour AM: Yes. Many of us were surprised to read in the paper about Assistant Commissioner [Cressida] Dick changing her job. This is a question for Stephen. Did you know that this was going to take place in advance?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I was consulted, yes. The decision obviously rests with the Commissioner.

Tony Arbour AM: Of course. Can I ask you whether or not you thought it was odd that Assistant Commissioner Dick, who by all accounts was extremely successful in that post, was being transferred back to a job she had already done? Did you not think that was peculiar?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I was not aware it was a job she had already done. I have worked with Assistant Commissioner Dick over the last two years and she has briefed me very frequently on terrorist issues. She has been someone who has tried to mainstream this threat, linking it to the safeguarding agenda. That of course cuts over the specialist areas of policing that she is now assuming and I have every confidence both in Assistant Commissioner Dick and in Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley.

Tony Arbour AM: I was not asking you that. I suspect --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am not going to comment on the oddness of the decision. It is for you. As far as I am concerned, the Commissioner has to have the team that he believes will serve the people of London, and that he believes will provide the most effective leadership for the MPS.

Tony Arbour AM: I understand that and we all respect that at the end of the day this is an operational matter which the Commissioner can decide. However you are someone who has been appointed, in effect, to challenge decisions made by the Commissioner; whether or not

they are entirely matters for him. Do you not think that if someone is extremely successful at a particular job, such a person should be moved?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): My response was to note the move and actually to celebrate the record of Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick. The job of being Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations (ACSO), as it is called, is one of the toughest jobs in the MPS. She has done a phenomenal job and I have every confidence in her ability to do her new role. I am not going to comment on managerial moves within the MPS. It is a matter for the Commissioner.

Tony Arbour AM: You have often told us that you are an employer, that you are a businessman --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have not often told you that. You just look on the web. You have no idea what I do when I am not doing this job. I am fully committed to this job.

Tony Arbour AM: No, I am not saying that you are doing these things concurrently. The essential point that I am making is, if you are running a business yourself, your own business, and someone is doing a job spectacularly well, do you remove that person?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You maximise the talent you have in your team. You build a team around you. You maximise the talent and it really depends what you are trying to achieve. I do not think he is losing the talent. He is retaining the talent of Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick in a particularly difficult role of serving the people of London. Thinking about issues around organised crime, for instance, the battle against the criminals who are using technology to, frankly, defraud many Londoners. It is a huge challenge, also, importantly, getting the link, if you like, between territorial policing, which Cressida Dick was trying to do. Terror cannot start and stop with the Counter Terrorism Command (SO15), as it is called, or the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU). It has to connect with other forms of policing. Her experiences as ACSO will serve her very well in her new role. For any leader such as the Commissioner - who is doing a phenomenal job fighting crime and we are seeing confidence in the MPS rise - the most important thing is to decentralise and empower the leaders who lead these particular units so they deliver for London. I have every confidence the Commissioner has the right team around him.

Tony Arbour AM: I am not seeking to dispute that. I am merely saying that to us, who sit here scrutinising you, who sits there scrutinising the Commissioner, it did seem rather strange.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You can make the comment. I have every confidence. It is his team and they are going to continue to work very hard to ensure that crime continues to come down, and that we see confidence in the MPS, which has risen also. There is an imbalance in some parts of London where we need to see a boost in confidence, but they are tackling, obviously, budget pressures and are doing a phenomenal job at the moment. That is what I look at.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, OK. Thank you.

John Biggs AM: I am assuming that in advising you of his intentions the Commissioner would have advised you also, I am sure in confidence, of the reasons why he wanted to make that decision. I am assuming also --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am not prepared to discuss --

John Biggs AM: I have not finished the question. I am assuming also that because it is the most senior antiterrorist role in the United Kingdom (UK) within policing, the Home Secretary would have been informed of that as well. The point behind this question is that although we do accept that there are many covert and confidential matters around antiterrorism policing, it does not mean that the scrutiny of the way in which this operates should be totally behind a veil.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, I agree with you.

John Biggs AM: It is a matter of public interest to understand whether there were underlying anxieties or whether there were underlying reasons why this should have happened.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): John, it pains me to agree with you because we do have a confused governance landscape. As you have just described, there are functions above the level of a capital city when it comes to counterterrorist policing. There are obviously the links with the Security Services. I attend, on behalf of the Mayor's Office and on behalf of the Mayor, the counterterrorism (CT) policing board in the Home Office, where very often we are looking at those co-ordinating functions above the level of a capital city. It is entirely appropriate that there is a national oversight.

However, we recognise that there is a very strong pan-London specialist counterterrorism policing function. Also, the ability to spot these issues - that trouble the streets that you all represent as politicians - requires that connection into territorial policing but also, importantly, into other statutory agencies that are working on the ground. That, effectively, takes place. We need to be very clear about the oversight. I, for one, believe that the Mayor, with his mandate and obviously asking me on a day-to-day basis to perform some of those duties, has oversight of what goes on in London.

Equally, I believe that it is very important that the capital city starts to connect with other capital cities. I was actually in discussion with Tony Lloyd the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Manchester, who leads for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), and also with the Chief in the West Midlands about how we should start to get intercity bi- or tri-laterals. To look at these issues around terror, organised crime and territorial policing and to start to have those discussions on, let us say, a six-monthly basis.

Oversight and governance - I agree with you - needs to be transparent. I want to move and see that we can develop that and get it clearer to the public. However, the debate around oversight of terrorism is, frankly, a little bit fatuous, with the idea that the choice is simply moving a capability from one place to another. That is the debate at the moment politically because of course there are very mature counterterrorist policing functions in Birmingham, Manchester and London. You then have a small co-ordinating function, which is a really important one, given that terrorism comes from Peshawar or Kandahar and links back to the streets of Kilburn or Peckham. You need to have an international co-ordinating function and you need those mature links with the Secret Services, but as a cost centre it is a small amount of cash. It is a £30 million bucket of cash. That is something that is contestable in terms of oversight, but actually I believe the Mayor's Office has to drive the oversight of terrorist policing within our capital city, and seek to have those links with other cities where a lot of the threat currently exists.

John Biggs AM: OK. I will rest on that point. I think there is a public interest point --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I agree with that.

John Biggs AM: -- that needs to be explored elsewhere if people feel it is a priority.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Mackey, is the issue of counterterrorism something that the MPS would be prepared to give this Committee a briefing on?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In the wider sense?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Yes.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, by all means, about counterterrorism, or do you mean about individuals?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No, I meant more about the issue. We were discussing it earlier and many of us did feel a bit out of touch on it, so it might be valuable to hear directly. Personally, I am not up for secret meetings, but other Members of the Committee might be.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, I am absolutely comfortable to do something like that.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): OK. We will be in touch. Thank you. Len, you wanted to come in on hate crime?

Len Duvall AM: I just wanted to raise an issue of an event that took place on 23 June - I have given notice to you - where a family-type festival was attacked by a group of Polish neo-Nazis. I will not go into it. I cannot pronounce their name and I am not going to have a try. I will use the shorthand for them, ZE [Zjednoczeni Emigranci]. The incident raises a number of interesting points. There was intelligence beforehand, because there was also an event held in

the vicinity by what were meant to be fascists, but I believe it was this group that did it. It clearly was an organised attack on the community. It left somebody stabbed. Really, I suppose I would ask you whether you could look into whether there was a failure of local intelligence and whether this event could have been prevented.

I understand this group, ZE, is quite prominent now both in the Tottenham area and in some of the border issues of Hackney. We should thank you because you managed to close down the Facebook page which highlighted their activities quite clearly and what they are about in terms of our community. I would like you to think about that in terms of some follow-up action because if this group is allowed to develop, it has quite a clear intention of what it wants to do to our communities; and it is obviously going to escalate into even more serious further violence on others.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am more than happy to take that on. Would it help if I just gave a bit of background as to what we know at the moment?

Len Duvall AM: Yes, please.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service):

Understandably, some of the reporting and some of what we know at the moment are slightly different. Yes, there is information about this group. Like you, 'ZE' is probably the best way I can describe it. We had put a policing operation in place. Interestingly, initially, no organised group arrived. It was described as '15-plus Polish nationals' who arrived with no paraphernalia, no flags, no banners and no associations with groups at that point. At about 8.00pm, there was an incident of a racially aggravated common assault against a Jewish male, knocking off a kippahoff. An arrest was made and the group ejected from the park. At some point, that group came back in and we believe at that stage there was a confrontation, not with the people at the other event in the park but with a group of people who had been evicted from a squat nearby. That is the brief from the borough, but clearly that is currently being looked at. The stabbing was of a Polish male later in the evening and, again, we are trying to get to the bottom of what that was about. Therefore, there were at least three incidents there that we are unpicking and looking at, but your point around this particular group is well made.

Len Duvall AM: Was it police intervention that closed down the Facebook page?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have to be careful. I would not want to claim credit for something I do not know, if I am honest.

Len Duvall AM: Could you check on that? I do think that the Orthodox Jewish community is quite concerned. It is not just - as it would appear - the Orthodox Jewish community that needs protection. It is the community. The way that it is being described in the press by witnesses - and there are various pictures of police officers obviously trying to get some control of individuals - is as an organised attack later on that night on this festival. Really, at the heart of this matter is whether the intelligence was acted on properly and appropriately. Could this have been prevented?

At some stage, there needs to be, Chair, a wider discussion about local intelligence and how that is used because I believe you have made some changes.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, we have.

Len Duvall AM: I am not suggesting that those changes might have affected this, but it is reasonable for us to ask whether this could have been prevented or the activities of this group as they congregate. They are coming from all over London to this particular area. There is a meeting place. Ironically, these Nazis meet at a Polish war memorial, I understand, in Hackney. It is ironic, that that is their meeting place, in the sense of some of the views they are putting around.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. I know at the moment there are members of the Haringey Independent Advisory Group in the local authority and there is a Gold Group there looking at all the issues around both that incident and the wider impact around that grouping.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): While we are doing an update, there is something that came out in the news this week and I wondered if I could have your opinion, Mr Mackey. The Financial Conduct Authority said that the payday lender Wonga had been guilty of unfair and misleading collection practices because it created fake law firms using the names of some of its, apparently still current, employees. I am just curious because of course there are laws against pretending to be a solicitor, quite apart from demanding with menaces. Is this something the MPS is looking into?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am not aware that we are currently looking into it. We have good relationships with the Financial Conduct Authority. I am sure, if they suspect a crime has been committed, they would refer it to us and we would look at it.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is the process, is it? They would have to refer it?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They would refer it to us.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I cannot do it here and now?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Other than the reporting, we have no evidence at all. They clearly have the evidence to make those sorts of statements and, if they share it with us, by all means we would look at it.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you very much. We are going to move on to the agenda now.

The first issue is water cannon. Your decision notice says that the Home Office authorisation process - this is to Mr Greenhalgh - was "proving time-consuming". Do you disagree with the Home Secretary's view that there are outstanding health and safety issues to be considered?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Maybe I could just go through some of these timelines. I do not want to look backwards because you are well aware that we have been through a consultation process which closed in March. I would never presume to disagree with a statement from the Home Secretary. Indeed, we need to understand our respective roles. She has to take advice on health and safety concerns. She hears from the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) amongst others, and will have other experts that she has to take advice from. It is absolutely right and proper that the decision for licencing the use of water cannon in the capital or indeed further afield - outside Northern Ireland, where it already is licenced - rests with the Home Secretary. The decision to procure rests with the Mayor who has delegated his decision to me after his letter to the Home Secretary of 19 March. He did write to the Home Secretary on 19 March after the consultation closed indicating it was our intention to purchase these. We took the decision in the Mayor's Office with my signature, as you know, on that decision on 9 June. Just to keep bringing you up to speed, my understanding is that contracts have been signed with the German Federal Police or the *Bundespolizei*. There will be an imminent exchange and then we will see the water cannon arrive imminently.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you for that background. My question is actually this. You signed the decision notice and it said in it that you had decided to buy these machines because the Home Office authorisation process was "proving time-consuming".

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Actually, the key driver for this decision is to ensure we get value for money for the taxes we pay as Londoners. There was an offer from the German Federal Police that was time-limited. I can take you through the financials. This is clearly laid out and set out in the decision. A new commissioned cannon would cost in the region of £870,000 and the total for three water cannon would be £2,610,000. The option to buy these water cannon was to purchase each cannon for £30,435. The fitting and modification per cannon costs £42,300, so it costs more to refit and modify and obviously put on the right livery. The total cost per cannon then is £72,735. That brings the total for the three cannon to £218,205. By my mental arithmetic, that is just shy of a £2.4 million saving by procuring this particular option, which, if we had not procured, would have been sold to another authority.. It is a deal for the taxpayer and that is why we procured them when we did.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you for that background. You still have not answered my question.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am trying to answer your question.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No, you are not. My question is --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The basis upon which we decided to buy was that we had a time-limited option to buy these three water cannon. Otherwise, the chances of being able to get them at that price would have evaporated. That is why we made the decision to procure: to secure value for money for the taxpayer.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): The very phrase "time-consuming" suggests that you felt it was going on for too long. This suggests you felt it was an open-and-shut case and that the Home Secretary was quite wrong to go into it in the depth she has gone into it, particularly around the health and safety concerns.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You are wrong to make that inference from the statement "time-consuming". It is just merely reflecting that ever since I have been in post we have been discussing the need to close a gap in the public order toolkit. We have had those arguments at length. I can refer you to comments that I have made in *The Guardian*, *The Sun* - I have an editorial in that - or *Conservative Home*. All of those set out the arguments that we see for closing a gap in the public order toolkit. This has been a time-consuming process. I have met the Home Secretary on several occasions and this has been an issue in our bilaterals. The Mayor has written to and discussed this issue with the Home Secretary on occasion, as has the Commissioner. Let us be absolutely clear. The call for this started with the MPS. They recognised that they needed this in order to have the full armamentarium to respond not to protest, but to extreme violent disorder. That is where the request emanated from and we have to listen to the MPS. In their professional judgement, and these are highly trained public order police officers, they have made the case that we need this, rarely used and rarely seen.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Using the phrase "time-consuming" suggests that you did not expect it to take as long as it has. Do you agree with that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The phrase "time-consuming" suggests that it has consumed an awful lot of time and sometimes you need to take a decision in order to secure value for money. You can infer that from the decision that we took or that I took a few weeks ago.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is only value for money if you can actually use these machines. You are buying what are, in effect, three aging machines from Germany and they are selling them because they have health and safety concerns. Did that come into your --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, that is not the reason. Obviously, we have made an assessment of these water cannon. They will have a limited lifespan but they still provide great value for money for Londoners and we hope they will never be used. As the Mayor said last night at the State of London debate, we hope they will never be used. However, if you are facing extreme violent disorder and if it is being targeted at a

fixed point, actually this may be an option that uses less force than other options that are currently already available to the MPS.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Why do you think the German Government is selling them? Could it be, as I read in several outlets, that in fact they have health and safety concerns about them? Why else do you think they might be selling them?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am sure that we would not have exchanged contracts if there were health and safety concerns about these and nor would you get another government, part of the European Union, being extremely interested in buying them from the German Federal Police.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): How have you assured yourself that they are going to be fit to function safely in London?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is an operational matter. You have to take operational advice. I have never fired water cannon, Jenny. I am very happy to join the Mayor, four square, and I invite the whole Police and Crime Committee to join me --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Do not be so offensive.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- in ensuring that there are no health and safety issues at Gravesend. I am sure we can arrange that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: How offensive.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): A properly trained officer could show that there are absolutely no health and safety issues.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Rubbish.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The Mayor has made that commitment. I believe even members of the media have made the commitment to stand in front of the water cannon.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: You are trivialising it.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am concerned. It is your job to scrutinise the MPS. The MPS asks for a lot of things and you refuse them a lot of things, but in this case you have accepted that they had a case. How have you reassured --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): What have I refused the MPS? I always give everything that the --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Lots of money.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Hang on a minute, Jenny.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Can we stick to the point --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Jenny, I am sorry. You are absolutely wrong.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Greenhalgh, you have gone off the point.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You are absolutely wrong to say I have refused the MPS anything that they have ever asked from an operational standpoint. That is absolutely rubbish.

John Biggs AM: Maybe you should.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is my point. Maybe you should. How have you --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): On what basis? Are you a professional police officer? Do you know anything about policing the streets of London? I may be the grandson of a police officer but I certainly do not presume to second-guess professionals on operational matters.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): But it is your job.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is not my job to second-guess professional police officers.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is actually your job to reassure yourself that their judgement is good, especially when they are asking for something about which there has been quite a lot of concern.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You are not defining my role on a day-to-day basis. My role is actually very clearly set out in statute. Second-guessing the professional opinion of police officers is not part of what I am going to do whilst I hold this public office.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Caroline, then Len [Duvall].

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I wanted to ask you, Stephen, what discussions you have had with other Police and Crime Commissioners across the country about water cannon. You referenced earlier that you have spoken to at least one.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I spoke to the Labour one, yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: There is a lot of concern about water cannon, I understand, from Police and Crime Commissioners across the country who would not want to have this as a tool for their police forces. By trying to push the Home Secretary and bounce the Home Secretary into making this decision, it has huge implications for the whole country rather than just the MPS area where you have some say. What discussions have you had with those Police and Crime Commissioners?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): This is not a national decision, Caroline. This is a decision for London. This is something within the M25. I have heard the opinions of other Police and Crime Commissioners and, suffice it to say, they range from, "I am vehemently opposed to the idea of water cannon", but then they happen to be a PCC for an extremely rural area. Frankly, you could not see why they would be a tactical option in Dyfed-Powys. Equally, I have had discussions with other Police and Crime Commissioners who have previously been serving officers and who say, whilst they do not see they have a role for the use of water cannon in public order policing in their force area, they recognise that there is a case for their utility, although we would not want to see them being used for dealing with extreme violent disorder in London. I have had, equally, other PCCs who are vehemently in favour and are suggesting putting smart water into the water cannon so we can identify people. There is a range of views, as you would expect, from people who represent different areas of the country. However, this is not a national decision. This is a decision that has been taken by the Mayor of London on the recommendation and advice of the most senior police officer in the country, who is responsible for policing in London. I have to respect the professional judgement and on this occasion it is the right thing for Londoners. I have set out my position.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK, but it does have huge implications nationally because ultimately, if it licenced for London, it is licenced for the rest of the country. So you are basically bouncing police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners across the country into potentially ending up with water cannon, whether they like it or not.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Can I just come in? No, they will not because, if you are not trained to use it, you cannot use it. I understand the sense behind the question and I understand where you are coming from. You are right on one count. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) - so professional policing - supports the acquisition of water cannon, but it is absolutely clear. As with any other less-lethal option, as they are called, if you are not trained in it, you cannot deploy it.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. Thank you.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Len?

Len Duvall AM: In your many meetings with the Home Office on this issue, do you not think there could have been some better co-ordination of the timelines of things that needed to be done by the Home Office and then done by you before the purchase of this? Are you concerned that one aspect the Home Secretary is looking into is whether these machines that you are purchasing have the right water pressure; and the health and safety implications, which I would have presumed the MPS would have done in the procurement before - 'rushing' is not

the right word but you could say - rushing into purchasing these machines? Has that not been looked into by the MPS? I am asking you, Stephen.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Of course - as you well know because you are one of my predecessors, although not in exactly the same role - every procurement decision takes advice. It will have had the advice of the senior responsible officer who is in charge of public order policing and that would have had professional advice from the MPS. It would have had legal advice and also procurement advice. All those health and safety concerns as they exist would have been assessed by the MPS. I am not a member of the water cannon board within the Home Office. I have attended it once with Sir Hugh Orde [President, ACPO] and Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley. I have had meetings with the Home Secretary. I am sure that there has been considerable thought about these issues, not least because this is not the first time British policing has purchased water cannon. They will be well aware of what is compliant from a health and safety standpoint. This is not a new policing tool, but it is a new policing tool for the mainland and certainly for the streets of London. I have satisfied myself that these issues have been taken care of. I do not know if the Deputy Commissioner wants to comment on that.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There was an interim statement before this was done. There is an acronym that you will see in a number of reports that I will just explain, SACMILL, which is the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons. They will do an assessment, be it a Taser, be it any sort of new equipment. It has to go and be assessed by them and there is an interim medical statement from them in terms of the appropriate use of this. As a result of the submission to the Home Secretary, she has asked for further work to be undertaken on that statement. There is also another group, CAST, which is the Centre for Applied Science and Technology, again, national. That is the filter that makes sure that equipment that arrives in the UK policing market all goes through a standard set of testing and a standard set of procurement. The first part of that has all been done.

Len Duvall AM: The Home Secretary has been very critical of the MPS in this process and it was in *The Times* where the Home Secretary's spokesperson was quoted, "We are not going to be rushed into this" - or 'bounced' might have been the word they used - and was critical of the MPS and critical of the Mayor de facto, as overseeing the MPS around the upcoming purchase. If we go back to the original consultation of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the MPS, which you did change at different stages, one of your key issues in the latter part of that consultation phase was that you needed this kit because of - and this bit I will quote - "the increased risk of violence". I presume that still stands from both of you. If that is the case, if there is an increased risk of violence - and I do not want water cannon but you two do - how have we got to the absurd situation of where the Home Office is not in tandem with you and your purchases? You have had to go into the marketplace fortuitously to secure best value, but at the same time you are telling us there is an increased risk of increased violence, which is why you need this kit. We have the Home Office saying, "Thank you very much, but you are going too fast on this and we still have some unresolved questions that really should have been resolved". Is that not fair?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): All right, absolutely.

Len Duvall AM: From an outsider looking in, is that not fair? Somehow, this looks very messy. This does not look good. Even if you take Stephen's [Greenhalgh] position that he wants to support you in policing, have we acted in not the right way somehow, getting all the ducks in a row to secure this piece of kit?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I would not accept it was not the right way. There are a number of things at play there. One is around the risk and that is the ACPO document that talks about the national risk around it. It is also that this solution is a conditional sale, basically, until the end of July. It is gone after that. If we do not exercise it, as the Deputy Mayor said, somebody else will take them and we are back into a two- to three-year procurement for a multi-million pound capability. We either make a decision and start to move forward - or try to move forward - or we all say, "You know what, we cannot do this for another three, five or six years".

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Jennette, would you like to go straight into your other questions when you have finished on water cannon?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, Chair. I just want to come in here because sometimes when a question goes on too long we miss the point. Going back to your question, the question which has not been answered ably here this morning is - why are we buying equipment for our police service that the German police service does not want because it is defunct? And why are the Mayor, his Deputy and others putting pressure on the Secretary of State, who in this area has shown herself to be a wise woman and who is looking at all options before she makes a decision? We have not had satisfactory answers to those questions, Chair, and you should put the Committee's concerns in writing to MOPAC for the record. Then, if they could then get back to us in writing, maybe we could be clearer.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Before we resort to the written tradition of communication between the Committee and MOPAC, we should not conflate the concept of obsolescence with something that is surplus to the German Federal Police's requirements. Quite clearly, there is a view that for a period of years they will be perfectly adequate for the task, not for as long as new water cannon, but they are second-hand. There are second-hand markets for many things. However the second-hand market for water cannon is somewhat limited. As the Deputy Commissioner has pointed out, this was a one-off opportunity to get great value for money for the taxpayers of London, get this capability and close the gap in the public order toolkit. It was the right decision.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Chair, in response to that, can you just add to our letter to MOPAC asking them if we have ever bought second-hand batons, second-hand guns or second-hand clothes and whether they think this precedent is totally inappropriate, given the importance of this so-called 'tool' that they want to add to the police's toolkit or whatever term has been used? We should write and I would like to move on to my next set of questions, Chair.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Please do.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The area I am moving us on to is the MPS' changes to stop-and-search. Good morning, Mr Mackey. I have some questions for you first, but let me just refresh our memory and anybody who is in the audience or at home watching. These questions are around the fact that the MPS introduced a new approach to stop-and-search in 2012, known as StopIt, and the aim as stated on the MPS' website as at April 2013 was and I quote:

"... to improve trust and confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service's use of stop-and-search by using it to tackle serious violence and using the power in a more intelligence-led way."

Then this Committee had a piece of work led by our Deputy Chair, Jenny Jones, and you have received our report of that piece of excellent work. What we noted in 2013 was that the total number of stops and searches fell by about 40% since StopIt was introduced, section 60 [of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994] searches had decreased by over 90% and the arrest rate from stops had increased from 9% to 15%. Do you want to give us just a flavour of the up-to-date performance and then give me an answer to the key question for us? We acknowledge the positive indications that we saw in 2013 of the progress and your performance. Have you maintained this momentum? If you have, how will you maintain it and how will you ensure that improving stop-and-search remains a priority for all officers?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Thank you and thank you for the question. It is probably one of those areas of work done under this Commissioner that in the long term will have the most impact. Groups sitting here five or ten years from now will say, "What happened in that period of time and what were those levers that were pulled that have effected a change?" If you look at the way the work has gone around volumes, which you highlighted, I will just quote. In 2011, there were 550,000 searches in London. We are projecting for 2014 just 247,000. We will have halved it. As you said, the area we had the most feedback on after the riots in 2011 and the most community concern was around the use of section 60 powers, the non-suspicion powers. They have fallen by over 90%.

There is a very strong governance regime within the MPS about how we use it, how we present the data to local communities so they can hold us to account and talk about it, and also where we go next. One of the ones we are looking at is those rare situations where we do use section 60 [of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994]. Members will be aware that the powers of stop and search under the Terrorism Act have an independent oversight and they have an independent overseer. We are looking at whether we can do the same with section 60, so have a prominent public figure in London who looks at our section 60 searches so we keep that momentum up. We absolutely accept that where we step further into that use of intrusion into people's lives - ie the non-suspicion searches - we get a far better control and a far better grip in terms of the work we do on those. What impact that has had on the issue of disproportionality has been quite interesting. You will know that for many years I have worked in the stop-and-search area both locally and nationally, since the early 2000s, and we used to look at disproportionality levels of 9:1, 10:1 or 12:1 and they are often still quoted. They do not bear any resemblance to what is currently happening in London. The latest figures to the

end of May show that white-to-black proportionality is still disproportionate. It is 1:2.4. White-to-Asian is 1:1. As you know, the MPS kept stop-and-account and, disproportionately, white-to-black is 1:0.9 and white-to-Asian is 1:0.8. We have seen really quite large movements on those figures over a number of years of doing this.

What is happening? As with so many things, when you focus time, effort and energy around the management structures, around the performance regime for stop-and-search and around asking the right questions, we are starting to see things moving in the right way. Also, I will not read them all out to you but perhaps, Chair, if you would like, I will write to you. We have an update for you against all of the actions from your report, so you have them. I know some of the things people were concerned about before, like, "Actually, have you done all this just by not recording stuff?" I have absolutely no evidence to support that. At the margins, there will always be ones and twos that are not recorded, but one of the good things we have done is to look at the body-worn video pilot sites and have actually said, "That is a stop and search. Can we trace it back through?" We can. We have been able to use that in a positive way, hopefully, to reassure Londoners. As you know, we sample public confidence and public attitudes around stop-and-search and it is still high, but we are realistic. With the long-term impact of stop-and-search and the history of stop-and-search, we are not going to see some of these issues move quickly. Candidly, if you have grown up being told that the police do stop-and-search and your experience of stop-and-search is something from 10 or 15 years ago; even though in fact we have changed now, I can understand communities saying, "It is going to take some time before we see the true effect of that".

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, thank you for that. We will welcome more information in a written note to the Chair. A couple of questions arise from what you have just told us. The independent overseer sounds like a good idea because it would mirror, as you say, what is happening with the other area of work. Are you saying you are thinking about it or are you waiting?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We are going to do it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: You are going to do it? What is the problem?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): This year. There is not a problem. You highlighted the StopIt work, the strategy, the work we have done around supervision, the work we have done around training and the work we have done around oversight. As part of the work around oversight, one of the plans for this year is about the independent oversight. It will be finding the right person and then selecting them for that role.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Again, they will have some sort of database? They will have some sort of position?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They will have access to all of the data, which we have done previously with colleagues from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and elsewhere. You will remember a few years ago

there were some real challenges about the use of section 60. One of the challenges was all the intelligence. We have had people in and we have said, "Work with us. See the intelligence picture that is presented. Understand the choices and options that in those cases often a superintendent or an inspector had to make. By all means, tell us if we had them right or wrong".

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes. We did have some concerns because you talked about generation change. We totally agree with you, but it is our view that you could be doing more now with the younger generation. I know that there is good practice. I certainly have a number of boroughs where for their youth independent advisory group (IAG), this is their constant area and they have been commended and I commend them every day. However, that is not widespread across London, so we were suggesting that the new training on stop-and-search should include a module with young people and we did not get a very positive response from you about that. Do you not think it is a missed opportunity not to involve young people at the start of the training so they absolutely know that training is being given and then you could be --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Jennette, could I intervene? Actually, it is MOPAC providing the training for the oversight of the community groups. We are the only area in the country where that training support is being provided, so it is unique to London.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No, it was a MPS question on training, so --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, hang on a minute. The training packages are provided by MOPAC to the community monitoring groups that are overseeing this. It is a MOPAC matter. It is not a MPS matter. Actually, we are the only effective PCC, if you like, or equivalent force area where that training support is happening. I take your point. I have visited places like Hackney where there is some really good practice around engaging young people. I have met them in public meetings that we have both attended and that is something I will take away and look at how we can make happen. Of course, it does not just happen. From the examples I saw when I was in Hackney Town Hall with you, it is not just the MPS or MOPAC, but is actually very energetic officials who sit within community safety departments - so within the Hackney Council - that also make a difference in reaching out and bringing in those young people and getting them involved. That is a model and we need to see whether we can make that work across London.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Staying with you, what you are suggesting is that you are going to go away and look to see how young people can be part and parcel of that across London?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, this cannot be driven from City Hall. What I can say is that it is good practice to have what you describe, which is young people engaged in the training oversight to do with stop-and-search, as we saw in Hackney. MOPAC is the only example providing that kind of support and training packages to the people that have oversight of stop-and-search. The young person's dimension is very, very important. Indeed, there are examples of engagement not just in Hackney but also in

Lewisham, which Len [Duvall] represents, and Islington around engagement and ensuring that young people know their rights. There are other examples of engagement with young people that we also want to ensure that we foster as well.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. When we are having a conversation with you, one of your common responses is that you cannot instruct from the centre or you cannot do this from the centre. The centre can show leadership and can be picking up good practice --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, I agree with that.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: -- and can be talking about them as guidelines. If the centre was just passive and did nothing --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Do you think the centre in this case is passive and inert? I do not think the centre is passive or inert. In fact, today I am giving a short talk on the training of safer neighbourhood boards, which are rolling out as we speak across London. I agree with you. Part of the role of the centre is to show leadership on issues like this and to highlight beacons of good practice. If you feel that we are not doing anything, perhaps you could write to me and indicate the things we are not doing. I have plenty of examples of us trying to foster and roll out the good practice we see. When it comes to community monitoring groups, we see good practice in Southwark, Hackney, Lambeth, Islington and Lewisham. Maybe not everywhere in London, but MOPAC is certainly aware of what is going on and certainly wants to disseminate that. However, it is not going to be a command-and-control exercise from the centre, much as though you would think that is appropriate. I do not think it is appropriate. We have to shine a beacon on good practice and encourage others to do the same.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I did not once say that it was appropriate for there to be command and control from the centre. I am just saying that in the same way that you can make reference to maybe about ten boroughs with good practice, you would be saying that perhaps next time we meet you will have issued some guidelines or some working with boroughs, so we could be looking to the majority of the 32-plus-1 areas we have in London taking on this sort of work. Let me just stay with you and explore --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Before you move on, you are making a judgement on this office and I do not accept that judgement. Sometimes you have to recognise where you are on things. We all agree that young people need to know their rights. We would all agree that especially young black Londoners need to know their rights and they need to receive fair treatment. I am particularly interested and the Mayor is particularly interested in this as it reflects public confidence. We know that public confidence in the police will not rise if young black Londoners do not experience fair treatment from the MPS. Therefore, intrinsically, our outcomes for the period that I hold this office will never be reached with regard to public confidence if we do not deal with that. However, it would be fair to say that we want to make sure that we understand good practice, we capture it and we see how we could add value to it and foster it before we then roll out. When it comes to knowing your rights, we are working very closely with Hackney, Lewisham and Islington. At the point at which

you can encourage a rollout, you do that, but this is not something where you run before you can walk. First of all, you identify areas where it works. You see what really is making this a sustainable thing and how it is working and then you roll it out. You test what you want to expand and you expand what you have tested.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can I ask you a question about MOPAC's activities around monitoring groups and around monitoring stop-and-search data? Does every borough have a community monitoring group that you know of?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is certainly our aspiration if they do not. I will stand corrected, but I assume every borough has one. Whether we have succeeded or not, I can get that answer to you. Certainly it is our intention of course because the governance of the safer neighbourhood board is that you would have a representative of a monitoring group. So, clearly, there would be a gap in governance if there was not one in every borough. If you know of boroughs where we do not have one, do let me know and we will seek to plug that gap.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I am asking you and then you could ask your Head of Service and actually then come back and answer --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): He could then ask the person who is responsible for it on a day-to-day basis.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: -- and say, from MOPAC's monitoring of the community groups monitoring stop-and-search data, whether every borough has a community monitoring group. That is an answer we would like from MOPAC.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Sure.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: What is their membership like? That is the second question. If there are identified issues in terms of them not being able to recruit enough people or get full engagement, what is MOPAC doing to support these groups? Those are three distinct questions there, if you can get back to us on that.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): OK. Those are all very reasonable.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: In your information-gathering, if you say it is too early, then that would be appropriate, but when do you plan to publish any data from the community monitoring groups? Would they be doing an annual report for 2014 or something?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Getting the data from the community monitoring groups and making that information transparent is entirely appropriate, so I agree that the questions are reasonable. You will get a response.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Thank you.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, they are reasonable and --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I am known as a reasonable person, except when I am questioning you.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I do not know. Normal questions that I receive are reasonable. Those are three reasonable questions and --

Victoria Borwick AM: Perhaps you will deign to answer us.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- I will make sure that we understand where we are. It is fair to say, without getting the answer to you that it is patchy. We have some extremely good examples of community monitoring groups and others where, frankly, they need to be strengthened and improved. We will get you a complete readout because there are officers responsible for that on a day-to-day basis. However, the challenge is greater than just getting the formal feedback of a community monitoring group. It is also around throwing transparency around what is actually happening in statistical terms. This is not just the numbers that we get from StopIt, but there are some technological issues. One of the questions I had when I talked to members of the judiciary, was that in the City of London you can see not only the arrest rate, which is tracked and is going up in the right way, is it not, Deputy Commissioner?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is going up, which is positive, even though the numbers are going down substantially. I asked the question around judicial outcomes. How many of these result in a judicial outcome? In the City of London, the systems talk to each other. In the MPS, it is not possible to do that, which is again a barrier to being more transparent and having an end-to-end process. Sometimes we do not get the information we like, but the principle must be to be as transparent as possible and that is what we would support. As and when we get information, we want to make that absolutely clear. I was shocked when I asked about complaints to do with stop-and-search, actually, by how few complaints you have in certain boroughs. The very fact that in a calendar year, I believe, in Haringey there were only two complaints actually disturbed me. Knowing Haringey and having been to every borough in London several times, I would expect that if there is confidence in the system you would see a greater number of complaints. People and communities withdraw and just refuse to complain, as you well know, Jennette. Understanding whether people are just failing to complain and being concerned about that is something we need to be aware of as well. We are getting those statistics. We want to be absolutely transparent about these tactics which, done well, protect the public and, done badly, destroy public confidence in the MPS.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. We look forward to receiving your note.

Victoria Borwick AM: Thank you. A couple of other questions, just to finish this off, although Jennette has obviously covered it fairly extensively: we have heard about the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme and we just really want to understand what improvements would be required in order for the MPS to be accepted on that scheme.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): All right. The Best Use of Stop and Search scheme has been announced. I do not have the detail in terms of how we get on to the scheme. That work is ongoing. It is the Home Office package and the Home Office work around it. The reassuring thing is that with no exceptions at all, all the announcements in the Home Secretary's speech reflected a lot of the work we had already done and she did actually refer to the MPS in her statement, so we look to be a founder part of it. We lead that national working group, so we would certainly look to be part of it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Actually, the Home Secretary called me at 9.00pm the night before she made the announcement and she made it very clear to me on the telephone that she saw the MPS leading the country with regard to improvements in the way that stop-and-search is carried out. The Deputy Commissioner is right to credit the Commissioner with a seismic change in the approach to stop-and-account and stop-and-search. It is a major part of his legacy for London, it is something that does not happen overnight and it is recognised that the MPS is leading in this area by the Home Secretary. On the implication - and I am sure you did not mean this in your question - that the MPS is going to join something that has been prescribed by Whitehall and they will eventually get as good as Whitehall wants; actually the message from the Home Secretary is, "London is leading on this. We want the rest of the country to follow".

Victoria Borwick AM: That is extremely helpful because we here are obviously not party to your individual and private conversations, but if there is a good news story, no doubt you will want to share it with us.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Thank you for the opportunity.

Victoria Borwick AM: Exactly. In that sense, we look forward to further details on exactly whether there will be good or bad things or what improvements - or not - you will be leading on. You already said earlier on this morning that you want to be the best police force in the country, so that gives you an opportunity to fulfil that obligation. I am sure the people of London will be very reassured by that answer.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If I may, just building on your point, it is a good point. There is also a follow-up Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspection of stop-and-search. As I have said to the Committee before, in addition to the day job as the Deputy Commissioner, I am also the national lead for policing on stop-and-search. Making sure that we continue that development beyond London is very much part of what we are trying to do. We will have the opportunity independently - and Members will get their copy when the work is done - to actually see if that progress has been

maintained in those areas that were previously identified both across the country and in London; and that we have actually done something about them.

Victoria Borwick AM: Fine. That is good. The importance, therefore, for this Committee is that we are continually reassured because our job is to be a voice for Londoners here. As you are well aware, there have been several concerns expressed, some of which have been spoken about by my colleague Jennette [Arnold] here. Obviously, we have also heard that there is a possibility and the Home Secretary has talked about officers having the power to stop-and-search removed unless they comply with these improved, more open and transparent arrangements. I am pleased to hear about training. I am pleased to hear about the ongoing work. May I ask as a matter of record that you keep us updated as to how that develops.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): By all means.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you very much. We are going to move on to MPS disciplinary processes. Caroline?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes, I have a question for you, Craig. A lot of us are hugely disappointed and concerned about the recent case that has come to attention around the detention and death of Sean Rigg [British musician], which has been going for several years; and that you have had to revoke the resignation by a police constable (PC) who had been allowed to resign, and who was involved in this matter. You have had to change that. Previously, you had been very strong before the Committee in terms of officers requesting retirement and you made it very clear that every request by an officer to retire is seen by your office and no officer can retire whilst under investigation. To quote you, "I now see all of those, every one", so you were very, very clear. What is the difference between someone retiring and someone seeking to resign? What are you doing to change that potential loophole in this process?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There are two loopholes in the process, at the very least. First of all, let me be clear that the ones I see and the ones I can stop are those who are under investigation and who are suspended, ie it is going to be gross misconduct. If you are not suspended at the moment and you are under investigation, you can leave at any point. That is the way the regulations work. If you are suspended for something, I can then stop you leaving the police service. If you are not suspended but you merely have a notice, you can go at any point. That is exactly how the regulations --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Who would sign that off, though?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It does not have to be. It is not a sign-off. There is no proscription because, as you know, police officers are not employees. They work under a set of police regulations. The only power to stop people - so the ones that I do - is usually where it is a misconduct offence, it is gross misconduct and they have been suspended. That is the restriction we have on the ability. If somebody merely gets a notice and says the next day, "You know what? I have had enough of policing. I am

going to go and drive a cab”, or whatever it may be, they can go. They can resign. That challenge is there. It would be a pretty draconian step to say everyone who is under a notice can never move because the threshold for giving someone a notice is a much, much lower threshold than proving a conduct matter, a discipline or ultimately a criminal offence. I have to be careful. I should have pointed out at the start. I have to be a little bit careful about this case because I am conscious that I was the decision-maker about whether you could resign. I may well be subject to challenge, so you will understand if I do not talk about the particulars of this case. However, to do a bit of the timeline stuff, there was a failure in communication between us and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). That is absolutely clear and I suspect, as with so many of these things, there was a bit on both sides. There is some real practical stuff around serving notices. To be absolutely clear, the way the regulations are, if there is an incident now and 15 officers get notices and nobody is under suspension and they say at the end of the month, “I am giving my 30 days’ notice as any other employee can do and I am going off to work for Tesco”, they can go. The ones we can stop under regulations and the ones I oversee are all the ones who are suspended. You could say that the policy answer is to suspend everyone. That would be totally impractical when you look at (a) the number of notices served and (b) the human rights issues about individuals officers because the service of a notice, in the nicest way, does not mean there is ever going to be a finding against you. The other thing that we wrestle with of course is the timelines. You spoke about this particular case. Some of these people will have been under notices and investigations for five or six years and are probably looking at another two to three years.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: This is far more complex. You made it sound previously as though you were really getting a grip on this, but you are not.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We are on the issues we can control. There is a whole part of it that I will not say we cannot control but that actually has no regulations to prohibit some of the things. By its general nature, suspension is used around these serious issues and serious matters. If it is a conduct issue, by its very nature, the regulations say it has to be gross misconduct, ie something that if you were found guilty in any normal walk of life you would be dismissed for. It is the same test here and that is when we have some control over people.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Let me just clarify. If people are suspended and if they apply to retire or apply to resign, you see all of those, both retire and resign?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I see all of them, yes, and you cannot leave the service. That is the regulatory control.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Obviously in this case - and there may have been other examples - you have revoked this resignation. Is that the only way you are going to be able to deal with people who have resigned from the force and then you find actually there are serious issues?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Once they have left, it is slightly different. The regulations changed some time ago. If it was an IPCC investigation and an individual retired, as we have seen with some of the historic cases, there is

nothing to stop the IPCC still looking at it and making the comment, "Should Caroline Pidgeon have stayed in the police service? We think, if she had appeared before a misconduct panel, the following would have been found". Absolutely, you can still do that. There is also now of course the separate safeguard around people who leave the service and the check against the national register that is held by the College of Policing of people - probably a bit like the General Medical Council - who effectively have a mark against them. There is that test as well. Let us take a real-life example. If there is a disturbance out the front of here and if every one of us is a police officer and involved and if there is a complaint made about that, they will go to the command-and-control log and look at all the officers who attended and every one of us will get a notice. Can I immediately stop you if you say, "I have had enough of policing. I was going to leave anyway. I am resigning"? No, I cannot, in exactly the same way as with anyone else in any walk of life. You can resign and leave.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: One of the questions that I had here I do not think is quite right because it is asking whether this particular PC's resignation should have been initially accepted. From what you are saying, you cannot reject it.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You cannot stop it.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Retirement you can make a decision on, but not resignation.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have to be careful, but I do not think this individual is at a point of retirement. If you leave the police service after less than 30 years' service or before you reach a statutory retirement age, you have resigned. That is the distinction with it.

If we come back to the perceived ill we were trying to address with this, which was around the perception of people leaving and picking up their pensions or other things whilst under investigation for serious matters. The work around people who were suspended and the ability to control that has made a difference around it.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I can see that this is quite complex because obviously you have to be concerned about the human rights of the officer involved and so on. I accept that. What power did you use to actually stop his resignation?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): He was suspended. I have to be really careful. Another officer has to make the decision about suspension and I make the decision about whether you can therefore leave the service, ie resign.

May I use a hypothetical? If I serve a notice on you that as the appropriate authority Stephen says, "Actually, I have weighed the decision and you, Jenny Jones, should be suspended", it then comes to me as the single point for those to say, "In this case, you cannot. You will stay". As you would expect, it is a legal test where I balance Convention [for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms] rights, balance Article 2 and Article 8, do all of those tests

and make the decision. That is why I can be challenged around it. It is a quasi-judicial public policy decision that I have to make.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I understand why he had not been suspended already. Was there some delay in that?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have to be really careful.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): OK. One of the aspects about this that concerns me is that you called it a “failure of communication” between you and the IPCC and you said it was “a bit on both sides”. If you look at the timeline, it rather looks as if the MPS just did not get its act together and did not inform the IPCC.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not want to be critical of another organisation.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No, I am, actually. The IPCC has taken a lot of flak in the past few years and actually it is getting its act together.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It was because it asked the MPS about this particular officer that the MPS gave the information that he was --

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Also, there is something - and you touched on that again - about when this was served because it is not for us to serve the notices, i.e. the notice that has to be served on Jenny Jones, if it is an IPCC investigation, has to be done by the IPCC.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You must have known that this person was of interest to the IPCC as well as to the Sean Rigg [British musician who died in police custody] family.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, I am absolutely clear. It should have gone at that point to them.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You only told them on 19 May.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have the exact date.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I just do not understand why the MPS did not let them know immediately.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I suspect it is as simple as that because it is a resignation, it would go through the payroll system as a straightforward member of staff resigning from the organisation.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Have you now put in processes that would actually --

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, for all the high-profile cases and those sorts of things around a Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) check, but it is as good as the people who do it, so it requires some constant drive.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): OK, all right. It would be nice to know that you and the IPCC were actually --

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We said afterwards and colleagues in the DPS and colleagues with the Commissioner said, "Actually, let us sit down and see what we can all learn from this one", because there are other cases where these sorts of things were involved. There are, as I mentioned, some quite big public policy issues around how we do these; and also getting that balance right between getting a proper investigation of a death that is required under Article 2 obligations and absolutely required for the family in confidence, and also the length of time that these go on for.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It was good the MPS dealt with the situation as it did and public pressure definitely helped. I am glad you responded to that public pressure. We are going to move on now to gangs.

Len Duvall AM: This is to MOPAC, Stephen, first off. What has changed from the original partnership's anti-gang strategy in your new *Strategic Ambitions* document?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The question really reflects on where we are with this issue. It is fair to say that one of the huge successes - and we have been talking about StopIt - is the launch of the Trident Command, focused on enforcement against the 3,500 gang nominals that we have who are associated with violence. The enforcement has been very successful in driving down both knife crime and violence using guns, and we have seen big drops in both gun and knife crime over the two years since the launch of Trident. It is fair to say that Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley - who has now moved role - has been very clear and the Commissioner has been very clear that you cannot solve this problem simply through enforcement, and reflected in the strategy is the move and the desire to look further than enforcement. It is obviously not just a MOPAC document. This is a shared document with London Councils, with Jules Pipe [Mayor, London Borough of Hackney], with Claire Kober [Council Leader, London Borough of Haringey], with other statutory agencies, with Probation and with other services that have a role to play, particularly in prevention and diversion further upstream, but also around exit.

The focus now is how we can move away from enforcement and get further upstream, and I do not know if you attended, Len, or you have visibility of our Gang Summit. We really learnt an awful lot from other cities and some of the academic thinking around diversion and how you get

diversion to work. We were privileged to hear from Professor Kennedy [Director, Center for Crime Prevention and Control, John Jay College], who also, I believe, spent time with the MPS around the lessons around the Boston Ceasefire programme. There is a whole strategic document around particularly how we improve diversion and prevention, but also looking to exit.

Len Duvall AM: How are we actually going to deliver the aims of moving away from enforcement?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): How do we deliver on the aspirations?

Len Duvall AM: Yes, and what do you think is the biggest challenge?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There are some tremendous challenges, not least because what we learnt from Professor Kennedy is that you need an enforcement element to diversion for it to work. It is no good just running a call in. You need to get the engagement right with communities. However you have also to back it up with an enforcement angle if people step out of line, and having the capacity to do that everywhere in London all at once is not going to be possible. Equally, Professor Kennedy was very clear that you do not target a particular gang in a community, you target the gangs in the area and you do not cut anyone any slack. That requires, again, the coverage and the focus. This is a matter for operations, to look at where you have the highest risk of harm, where your highest issues are and then to prioritise those areas where you can seek to take those kinds of core elements of the Ceasefire programme and implement that on the streets of London. Importantly, it does also require community leaders to step forward, the statutory agencies to play their part, and I have to commend people like Jules Pipe who have done an amazing job when it comes to enforcement; but it is using those kind of vehicles and then moving them back upstream. It is going to require working hand-in-glove with local councils and with Probation, who play a role, and the police doing their bit, but the police cannot lead on this stuff. They can only provide a certain element of it. The difficulty is getting everybody to understand their role and hold the ring. That, again, cannot be held in City Hall. It has to be led on the ground with the political cover and support and goodwill.

Len Duvall AM: If it is led on the ground and is going to drive down crime further, are we not at risk that we get a patchy response? Are you not concerned about the capacity of London boroughs?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am concerned about capacity. You should never overcommit to something and you should also test it out, so this is something where it has to be operationally decided. It cannot be politicians deciding, "Do it over here. Do it over there". We have to think about where. This was the point made by [Professor] Kennedy, a really golden point, which is that a very small proportion of those 3,500 cause a disproportionate amount of violence. I think the figure we had at the Gang Summit was ten gangs accounting for 40% of the violence in London. Therefore, that means you can start to target and you can focus. It is still a capacity issue because you cannot deal with all those

ten gangs at once. Equally, I believe that if you crack down, as we see, it does affect communities.

Len Duvall AM: Sorry, can I just go back?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Can I just finish the point?

Len Duvall AM: Ten gangs cause --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Ten gangs cause something like 38% of the gang violence, approximately. That is my memory, but I can get you the facts. Like all these things, there is not a uniform level of violence. Across all of the gangs in London, 250-300 gangs, 10 gangs are causing about 38% of the violence. It is a statistic that came out of the recent Gang Summit. Whilst there is a capacity issue, you can focus down on that but, equally, it is my view that you cannot just do the ruthless diversion without being absolutely clear about the preventative issues even further upstream, so how you link in family intervention and things that are in the Troubled Families programme, the use of children's centres and the work with schools. I have to commend people like Susan Tranter, a Head Teacher in Edmonton, who is really passionate about how in the appropriate way with professionals you can address some of these issues within schools. Having that preventative piece in place is important if you are going to get ruthless about diversion. There are some real issues about making this happen, but it is absolutely right to have the ambition to move away from just enforcement and to think about diversion and also prevention.

Len Duvall AM: I am still unclear. Where will the leadership of the next phase go?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The leadership rests with the Commissioner and he is delegating the responsibility of where you have harm and risk, and where there is a risk of greater violence and where you feel you could have an impact around dealing with violence on our streets. Clearly, those ten gangs that caused nearly 40% of the violence are rooted in places, are they not? They are rooted in boroughs and that may inform where you best want to do this. Equally, you have to have willing people to collaborate with and you have to have councils and community leaders that want to work alongside this, and that will inform the decision as well. Frankly, the enforcement will always rest with the MPS, the capability and where that gets deployed. In the community engagement, MOPAC has a strategic role, but it is going to be the councillors on the ground that drive this through as leaders who are going to have to bring in the other partners.

Len Duvall AM: Also as a preventative role --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, within Safer Schools.

Len Duvall AM: -- it is one of your old mission statements, is it not?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, it is principle 2 in my *Principles for Policing in Austerity*. I am a great fan - a huge fan - of Sir Robert Peel [former

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom] because he was a Conservative, not least because he was the greatest Home Secretary we have ever had, in my personal opinion. He founded the MPS - I was not alive to see him do his work - and he always believed that you should try to prevent crime from happening in the first place. It is a core role and a core mission of policing. However, when it comes to ruthless diversion, the role of the MPS is enforcement. There are roles that the police do in preventing crime, designing it out and interventions within schools. I know the Commissioner is absolutely supportive of Safer Schools officers, and indeed beat policing; getting out there on the beat and getting ahead of the crime curve and clearly being rooted into neighbourhoods is a core function of policing as well.

Len Duvall AM: What will I see by next year, then? What is going to be different? What will happen? A couple of pilots?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We will have been able to have brought to bear the kind of diversion that had a huge impact in reducing violence on the streets of Boston, we will have piloted that in several boroughs in London. We will have modelled what we expect to see within our schools and the use of family intervention in at least maybe four boroughs, but we will not have learnt everything. It will be an iterative process, but we will have started the process of moving away from enforcement and into diversion and prevention.

Len Duvall AM: My last couple of questions now. How are we actually measuring gang crime currently?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You know the answer to that, do you not, Len? You are asking me because you know or do not know?

Len Duvall AM: I was asking the MPS.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Certainly, by all means. Can I just pick up on your point because I think I understood your point, how will the drive work to deliver this? If I may just point you to page 34 on the strategy because I chair the London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB) delivery group with local authorities and all the key players for London you would expect to see there. It is a standing agenda item about where this work is going and the main detailed work is being done in those three subgroups. As the Deputy Mayor said, we have made progress around that issue around enforcement. We can always do more, but it is getting that consistent approach. You are right around the challenges. One of the challenges is around whether we end up with a patchwork. If I am a gang member in borough X, is there a route out for me that does not exist for a gang member in borough Y? That is one of the challenges that we need to look at as we look at capacity and organisational stretch and knowledge. However it is where some of the work that some of the third sector - so people like Safer London and others - are doing, and where they are working across that to offer some of those specialist routes out. I hope in terms of seeing the progress it will be through that mechanism.

Len Duvall AM: What I do not understand is really on the ground - and it is something Stephen [Greenhalgh] said - who do I go to in my borough? Is it the borough commander who is leading the interface on this project or is it someone from Trident? Is my gang just borough-focused or does it cross borough boundaries? Where does that work fit into the picture and where does that fit into some of your intelligence which Trident has brought to it? I am not sure who is providing the leadership on the ground. Are we giving it to local councils? That is fine because I can understand that. Are they prepared for doing it? Then we can see some of those projects that I thought were useful, projects that Stephen [Greenhalgh] is saying, and see who is driving it. Who owns this? Who is taking it forward? It is our document. I am just surprised and I know you are going to go back to command and control and all the rest of it. I do not mind playing a supportive role, but someone has to hold the ring and someone has to direct it and someone has to be accountable for it. It is not going to be left until a thousand blooms go because we will just never get anywhere, really.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): On the intervention and enforcement, it is absolutely clear, the borough commander at that level has the gang problems as part of the other challenges they face on the borough. Your point around boundaries, no, of course they do not recognise borough boundaries. Borough boundaries mean something very important to all of us sitting here in this room. For most people, and particularly to people who are involved in criminality, they do not recognise them. That is why the Trident Gang Command is a central unit. Where the level of involvement is exactly as the Deputy Mayor said, it is around those at the moment on our matrix that are causing the most harm and risk. You would expect that. In the nicest way, you would probably say to me, "What on earth are you doing?" If we were putting all central assets in borough X with a very small gang problem instead of borough Y, who has got a gang problem that is roving across three or four boroughs in a part of London. That is the ability we have of very dynamic tasking and moving in terms of the ability to do it. At a local level, the wider intervention piece, there is already an established network. Local authorities are doing a number of bits of work around those exits from gangs, but the challenge, which is the right one, is that it is patchy. You will know a number of boroughs were identified as having particular challenges around gangs and have come in and a whole range of work in relation to those boroughs has taken place, but it is not yet a uniform picture.

Len Duvall AM: OK. Can I just go back then? How are we measuring gang crime currently and our successes? Are part of the successes you putting some of these people away from society or not? What is this formula? Can you just direct me to where it is?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The Home Office published something called *Ending Gang Violence*, which was a whole range of things, crime types that you should look at as a proxy. I will just run through them and talk about particularly what we do: serious violence, violence with injury, knife crime, knife injury, gun crime, gun discharges, serious youth violence under 25, knife injury victims aged under 25, not domestic violence-related. The two we focus on, the main crimes we track - because we think they are a measure for gangs and they are a proxy - are gun discharges and knife crime injury victims aged under 25, not domestic-related. The other thing given the challenges that we have had around gangs over the years is the MPS actually has what we call a gang flag. In a dispute

over parking or something like that but where they think there are some gang tensions, they can flag it, so we have a flagging system as well. We can pick up everything from, as I say, those serious crimes all the way through to a dispute over housing or something that the local authority highlights to us and we can flag it in those ways. We have seen reductions in shootings and we have seen reductions in the knife injury victims aged under 25, so we are seeing some of that. On your question about whether in some cases this is about locking people away, it is, at a point, for some of these people. If that gives a respite to the community and gives an opportunity to interdict in that gang in a different way, then absolutely; that has to be part of the solution. One of the challenges we also work with and we do not talk around an awful lot is the work we obviously do with gang nominals who are still in prison. At the moment, 975 of our gang members are in the prison system. So obviously we work with colleagues in the prison system because as you will be aware, there are all sorts of issues about where you even put people in cells, and whether you allow people to congregate as gangs or in locations, so it is quite a complex business. We provide an end-to-end process to run that and run those interventions.

Len Duvall AM: OK. I suppose, lastly, on the operation yesterday, this is where gang work meets other loose associations. I am not even sure you would describe them as gangs. You have Trident running Operation Big Wing, and it was said, "Knife crime cuts across several crime types such as robbery, burglary and gang crime", so of course gang crime featured in that, and Trident in terms of its work rate will carry those issues off. Is it the case that we probably need to take the gang crime work, but really we need an anti-violence Prevent strategy around some of these issues? Is that where this is leading to or not? Gang crime is a feature of that, not driving that.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Can I just comment on this? We had a MOPAC Challenge on this. Sorry, just helpfully on this because I think you are on to something, I learnt for the first time from the health professional Hong Tan [Head of Health in the Justice System, NHS England - London] that violence is considered a public health issue. Actually, it was very interesting, the analysis that the Mayor's Office did around drugs and alcohol and how that links to violence, particularly in town centres. I will send you the papers through. Certainly I found it very insightful about how there is a very, very strong link between substance misuse, drugs, alcohol - particularly alcohol - town centres and violence. It is not all town centres. We are talking about town centres in the West End. In Dalston or in Shoreditch there are very high levels of crime; and in Kingston, ironically, high levels of crime. The top five are quite interesting if we talk about 300 or 400 recorded crimes and the links with violence and alcohol are very, very clear. We do need a Prevent strategy around this. We do need a Prevent strategy and it does not just cut across gang issues and other things. It is very much a societal issue and we do need to think about some of the psychosocial issues - you are absolutely right about that - and it is not on the agenda enough at the moment. We have 23 health and wellbeing boards with lots of money because health is ring-fenced from cuts. This is something where we do need to make an intervention, we do need to write and we do need to make sure it goes up the public policy agenda because it is not high enough up the public policy agenda, given the impact that it has on the streets. Violence with injury is something which I am sad to say since the beginning of the year is trending the wrong way, so we are winning on

crime, but over the last six months we are seeing a slight up-tick in violence with injury, and it is very concerning. We do need a Prevent strategy. I completely agree with you.

Len Duvall AM: I am not demeaning this work or putting it second, but I am thinking across the piece. Violence is the thing and whether it is Prevent strategies for counterterrorism, domestic violence, gang activity, drug and alcohol-related activity, it is violence that we need to suppress within our communities in some way.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I absolutely agree with you.

Len Duvall AM: OK. We look forward to reading some of your proposals about that in the future.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I just wanted to pick up with you, Craig, whether you feel that the MPS has a full picture on gang crime and gangs in London, because the MPS' matrix database says there are 3,495 gang members, yet evidence that has been given to the Home Affairs Select Committee this month suggests that there are over 11,000 gang members in London. Do you really feel you have a grip of who the gang members are and can then link them to crimes?

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, that whole issue of labelling and recognition is a really difficult one to say to you because there is a perception that somehow spotting a gang member is a really easy thing to do. They do not carry business cards and they do not say, "I am a member of this gang and that gang". We are comfortable that for the nominals we identify and the nominals we work with, we can support the fact that we have something; so that if someone says to us, "Is Caroline Pidgeon a member of this gang or that gang", we can actually show and prove an audit trail in terms of doing it. Like you, I have heard a range of numbers quoted across the piece and there are some real dangers around the labelling. If you go too large around this, first, you can create a scenario where it almost becomes a badge of honour or a badge of pride and, also, you can label people who might be in that space where actually there are still opportunities to turn them away from it. It is an area I am intuitively and professionally cautious about and I prefer the quite tight way that we work. Other agencies will have different methods. One of the most interesting pieces around this piece of work has been for the first time, and you can say we should have all done this years ago, getting that information to a point where we go, "I did not know you have Craig Mackey. We have him for this, this, this and this. If we had known that", and you get that complete picture. We are building a more complete picture around it.

As the Deputy Mayor touched on, one of the reassuring things now is colleagues in health are engaged in a way I have not seen in partnerships elsewhere in the country. They are working really, really well in terms of doing this. I hope it is replicated elsewhere outside London now but, to give colleagues in health their due, they are coming with some really imaginative ideas and they are working in a very different way, which gives me some real hope for the future.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: In terms of the numbers, you think the more conservative figures are around 3,500.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am comfortable with our definition and what we work on.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): One is associated with violence and one is people who are involved with gangs. They are different numbers.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Which is that, and then you are getting more data from partners, so the number may well increase.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: That is fine. That is very helpful, thank you.

Victoria Borwick AM: Inevitably, because the GLA obviously has to actually pay out money here, this Committee felt it was appropriate to ask about the Daniel Morgan [private investigator and murder victim] case, where we understand £50,000 has been paid out from the GLA.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In fairness, I do not know the background to that at all.

Craig Mackey (Deputy Police Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If I could I just clarify from our position because - for obvious reasons - the MPS has not been involved in that? I can tell you where obviously there is the independent panel set up in relation to look at the Daniel Morgan case, but issues about money --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The Mayor issued the decision. It was a Mayoral Decision using powers that are not associated with his powers under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act; which I am sure Baroness Jones knows is the reason for the creation of MOPAC and also creates in statute a second deputy mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. That is the reason that we cannot discuss this any further. If you had tabled this, we could probably give you quite detailed and proper answers, but this is a question out of the blue, which is wholly inappropriate.

Victoria Borwick AM: Maybe we could write to you and you could give us an answer, then.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You can write to me and I will give you a written answer.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You will find that we can ask any questions we like.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You certainly can.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You have an absolute right not to --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): If you gave me advance warning we could have given you a very proper professional response, but questions out of the blue like this is not a way to conduct this Committee.

Victoria Borwick AM: It is an exceptional case and therefore it might have stuck in your mind.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a dreadful case and, if you had given us warning, we would have given you a fuller and better answer. That is all I am saying.

Victoria Borwick AM: You are obviously aware of it. Otherwise, you would not be making remarks like, "It is a dreadful case".

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a dreadful case.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Why can you not answer the question?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Greenhalgh, we are entitled to ask you any question we like. You are equally entitled not to answer for any reason of your own and, in this case, we would like to see something in writing. Thank you very much.

Victoria Borwick AM: Thank you, Chair.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Our guests, thank you very much for coming. It was good to have you.