

Response from Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea residents

Resident 1

For attention of Siobhan Coldwell

Dear Ms. Coldwell

I am writing to express concern about the implications of the Mayor's Police & Crime Plan 2013-2017 for my neighbourhood in Earl's Court.

Although I understand the need to cut policing costs, I fear the proposal as it stands puts us at risk.

Specifically that:

- The Plan is insensitive to local needs at ward level, in apparently being structured on a top-down basis.
- In reducing our dedicated PCs and PCSOs, we lose the sense of connection we have with our local police. Conversely, the officers we are to be allocated from a pool will not know what "makes the locality tick". I know the officers in my little area, and the exchange of information over the years has built confidence on both sides. This confidence is built on personal relationships, and can't be instantly replicated with anonymous officers from a pool.
- We have a very busy area, not least because of the two underground stations and exhibition centre. Night-times are often unattractively lively, with entertainments taking place a stone's throw from residential streets.
- I fear what will happen when access to my local police station (Kensington) will be restricted to office hours.

I have tried calling the police in recent months to report a street disturbance (not 999 emergency), though gave up when I couldn't get through. As a law-abiding citizen, I am very supportive of the Police! However, as a rate-payer, I would like the Mayor's Plan to take better account of my local needs in Earl's Court.

Thank you for taking my views into account.

Resident 2

I object to the proposal to make the Kensington police station in Earls Court Road non-24 hour front counter.

Together with the proposed closure of Chelsea police station, the only night front counter would be in Notting Hill, which is a long hilly walk from Earls Court, where I live.

Earls Court residents needing to go to a police station would find themselves ill-served by this proposal.

Moreover, visits to a police station are not just because residents need help; it can also be to report an offence, helping the police. I would be very unlikely to traipse over to Notting Hill to report anything that was not a very grave offence.

The proposed change will worsen the service you provide to Earls Court residents and reduce the information and assistance you receive from the public. I urge you to abandon it.