

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**  
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Dear Caroline,

Thank you for sharing your constituents' petition and concerns with me about the sale of Teddington Police Station and for your letter to the Deputy Mayor on this topic. I do apologise for the delay in responding, in part due to the six-week pre-election period.

The difficult decision to close Teddington Police Station was taken in order to prioritise police officer numbers in the face of chronic underfunding of the Metropolitan Police (Met) by the government. This underfunding meant that the Met was required to make savings of nearly £1bn from 2010, leaving officer numbers lower than 30,000 at the end of 2017/18 for the first time since 2003. Numbers did not rise back up past 30,000 until two years later. As at 30 April, the current police officer strength is 33,542 FTEs, which is the second highest number of police officers the Met has ever had.

Despite this, I have continued to ensure there is a 24-hour police front counter operating in every London borough, with Twickenham Police Station continuing to operate a front counter in this borough.

I would like to assure you, contrary to earlier reports in the press that a decision on the future of the site would be taken in March, that is not the case – no decision has been reached to date and all bidders have been informed as such. The Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) always takes legal advice on its statutory duties and this advice is currently being finalised. I can reassure you that MOPAC will do everything it can to ensure the site is put to the best possible use.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London