

MAYOR OF LONDON

Unmesh Desai AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA090718-7109

Date: 18 SEP 2018

Dear Unmesh,

Thank you for the petition presented to the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 5 July about anti-social behaviour in the Canning Town North Ward of the London Borough of Newham.

I am sorry to hear that your constituents perceive that crime and anti-social behaviour is increasing. This is borne out to a degree by the data (which I am aware is only part of the picture), although crime is at a lower overall level in the Ward than at this time one year ago.

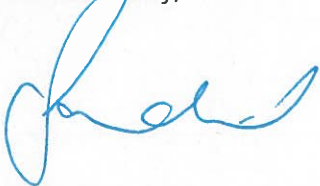
That said, you know that I wholeheartedly concur with the sentiment of the petition. I am on record taking the government to task for cutting police funding. Government real terms cuts to the policing budget have meant the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has lost £720m in funding over recent years. This has led to officer levels falling below 30,000 for the first time since 2003. The MPS is still required to deliver an additional £325m in savings by 2021 as a result of Government real terms cuts.

Keeping Londoners safe is my first priority and keeping the country safe should be the Government's first priority too. They have neglected this responsibility, by refusing to provide the resources needed to protect us and insisting on passing the buck. Therefore, I have provided an additional £111.8m in 2018/19 for the MPS - £49.3m from Council Tax and £62.5m from business rates. The additional funding from business rates is money that would ordinarily be spent on supporting non-police services, such as transport and economic development.

This means City Hall is paying a greater percentage of the overall police budget in the capital than ever before - up from 18 per cent in 2010 to 24 per cent today. Additionally, from 2019/20, I will invest an additional £59m annually, raised predominantly from business rates, to support an extra 1,000 police officer posts than would otherwise be affordable.

I hope this provides some reassurance.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London