



City Hall Greens

**Caroline Russell AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
LONDON SE1 2AA**

Sir Stephen House
Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service
(sent by email)

26 May 2022

Dear Acting Commissioner,

Operation Hillman investigation

Thank you for answering my questions at the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee today. You offered to come back in writing, on several points of detail:

1. Why did officers in Downing Street who witnessed partying not use the 4 Es approach to engage, explain, encourage and enforce with attendees at any of the Downing Street lockdown parties while they were happening, when this was the approach that was taken with members of the public?
2. In January I asked the former Commissioner whether any concern was raised by Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) officers working in Downing Street while coronavirus laws were in place. You said no concerns were raised with you or the former Commissioner, so when did the MPS leadership first become aware that parties were happening at Downing Street.
3. Today you said you thought it was "Impossible to expect an officer walking through a room with a lot of people in it to work out whether or not these people are breaching coronavirus regulations when it's taken a team of 12 experienced detectives many, many weeks to do the same." Did this officer raise the incident with any manager at the time or ask for advice?
4. You also said you would write to me with details of the evidence that you took from the officer who responded to the panic button alarm at the Downing Street event on 18 December 2020.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours faithfully,

**Caroline Russell
Green Party Member of the London Assembly**