

David Simmonds CBE MP
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Our ref: MOPAC160424- M4933

7 August 2024

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter to the Mayor about your constituents' thoughts on local crime and safety in Ruislip, Northwood, and Pinner. I am replying on his behalf and in my capacity as the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for London. I am grateful to you for sharing their concerns with the Mayor and sorry for the delay in responding.

I welcome feedback from your constituents on the specific issues that matter to them: burglary, vehicle theft, Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), drugs and road safety. The Mayor and I are committed to tackling crime in our communities, and Ruislip, Northwood, and Pinner are no exception.

First, I was disappointed to find your constituents felt that not enough priority is given to policing in the suburbs. The Mayor has invested almost £85m to tackle crime and its complex causes through funding grassroots crime prevention projects and promoting positive opportunities for Londoners in every borough through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF). The LCPF totals £14.7m a year, which is distributed to boroughs through a need and demand formula based on local priorities aligned with his Police and Crime Plan.

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan also emphasises that local policing teams in London must respond effectively to neighbourhood crime and focus on reducing current and emerging priority crime types in their communities.

I support the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in taking tougher action against perpetrators of burglary, theft, and robberies. This includes focused operations across identified crime hotspot areas, using police vehicles and technology to respond to incidents and target offenders.

Since April 2023, his Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has been providing the MPS with surge funding to allow police officers to undertake overtime activity. This has resulted in over 200 arrests related to the theft of motor vehicles and recovered stolen vehicles being recovered valued at over £3m. In November last year there was a national week of action under Operation Drive Insured, which tackled uninsured drivers, and focused on stolen and cloned vehicles. The Mayor and I are committed to tackling vehicle crime as part of creating safer and more confident communities.

MOPAC convenes the London ASB Forum, which is made up of local authorities, charities and police partners that identify opportunities to improve responses to ASB. In my view, the partnership approach between Local Authorities, the MPS, and other local agencies is the most effective way to resolve ASB issues in our communities, and I remain committed to facilitating this partnership.

It is important to me that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods. MOPAC is supporting the MPS to implement a new fund from the Home Office to increase uniformed patrolled presence during peak times of ASB and serious violence. Londoners have told us a uniformed presence provides reassurance and feelings of safety.

The Mayor has also increased the number of Dedicated Ward Officers and ensured at least two Police Constables and one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) are in every London ward. Additionally, the MPS has appointed 32 Superintendents (one per borough) to provide additional local leadership.

The Mayor understands the harm caused by the misuse of drugs in our communities, and has made it clear that we must take a public health approach to reduce drug-related deaths, offending and drug use. In 2022, the Mayor established the London Drugs Forum; providing a collaborative multi-agency approach to tackling drug-related offences and wider harms from a public health and criminal justice standpoint.

In the same year, he invested £6m in expanding Project ADDER. This initiative aims to address drug misuse in local communities by coordinating law enforcement activities, alongside using the criminal justice system to divert people away from offending.

Your letter suggests your constituents are in favour of more traffic patrols to ensure road safety. The Mayor's [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) sets out my ambitions to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries on London's streets by 2041. The MPS Roads and Transport Policing Command is responsible for enforcing road safety legislation and responding to incidents on London's strategic road network. It works closely with Transport for London to reduce road danger for everyone.

During this mayoralty, the Mayor has pledged to make London safer by working with a Labour government to put an extra 1,300 neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs on the streets. He has already committed to putting an extra 500 neighbourhood PCSOs on the streets across London, to help us reduce ASB, catch criminals, and take weapons off our streets.

I know more needs to be done to address Londoners' concerns and to build trust and confidence in the MPS. The Commissioner's A New Met for London plan is a crucial step on the road to reform, as it contains an ambitious set of activities and programmes that aim to deliver More Trust, Less Crime, and High Standards. The Mayor and I will continue to hold the MPS to account for its delivery, including through the work of my London Policing Board.

Finally, I would encourage your constituents to connect with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team if they have specific concerns about policing and crime in their area. Such engagement plays a vital role in informing local police activities. Neighbourhood Team's can be contacted via the following link: <https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/>.

MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Thank you for bringing these important issues to the Mayor's attention. I hope this response provides you and your constituents with some reassurance of my commitment to creating a safer London for everyone.

Thank you for writing

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophie Linden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime