

TRANSCRIPT OF MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2009 AT CITY HALL

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101. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Can I ask Tim [Godwin], the Temporary Deputy Commissioner, to make his report please?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman, obviously the report on behalf of the Commissioner has been circulated. Can I echo the apologies from Sir Paul Stephenson who is recovering? He thought 48 hours would be sufficient, for the removal of appendicitis, for recuperation, but sadly that was not to be and he is currently recuperating and then going on a pre-planned holiday but would have been here today.

I would also like to start by saying a thank you to the Chairman for his comments in relation to PC Gary Toms and PC Chris Dent; two officers who lost their lives in the last few weeks. Our thoughts are with the families of both PC Toms and PC Dent. I know that the Metropolitan Police Service will do all it can to support those families.

The other key points that the Commissioner also wanted to draw attention to are the latest performance highlights. This is the first meeting that is post the end of a performance year and overall the reductions in assault, gun, knife crime, robbery and burglary are positive achievements that have been achieved throughout London this year by the Metropolitan Police Service and its partners.

The most particular one that we would like to note and to highlight is the fall in youth violence which is now down nearly 10% for the year which is 2,200 fewer offences. However, it brings it into stark relief when we consider that only a few days ago a teenager was murdered in Stockwell and our inquiries continue into that investigation. As a result there is still lots, lots more that we have to do collectively in London to reduce the threat to our young people.

The other thing that the Commissioner is very keen to do is to highlight those areas where crimes are rising. We have had an increase in reported hate crimes. I am always nervous when it comes to this because often it is said that this can be seen as a positive thing in the fact that we know it is an underreported crime and that may sometimes mask the fact that it is increasing. As a result a significant amount of work is being done to identify whether it is a true increase or it is an increased reporting.

Likewise, we have seen an increase in the recorded offences of rape, another crime that we know is often under-recorded. So again, that can sometimes mask increases in this level of violence. Whilst it has increased by some 276 offences this year compared to the previous year, it is still the second lowest level of recorded crime over the last ten years. My concern would be that people are not coming forward to report such crimes. We have worked with the Home Office to target young people in terms of encouraging them to come forward, predominantly between the age range 13 to 16 years, if they have suffered sexual violence and how to approach adults to assist in bringing this crime to our attention.

As you know, previously reported here, we continue the work on the implementation of the serious sexual offences command which would give us 24-hour consistent crime cover across London which we reported previously to this Authority.

The other crime type that has increased is business crime. That has increased by some 11%, which is predominantly a significant increase in shop theft or shop lifting and fraud and forgery of credit cards. We have had 11,600 more shoplifting offences and 5,700 more offences of forgery.

We are going to be bringing to the Authority our proposals shortly in relation to increasing our town centre patrol capability. That starts this week in terms of priority town centres where there will be additional patrols deployed. Additionally it is linked to our special constabulary recruitment and one of the things that we will be doing from June onwards, but with the commencement of the rollout of the virtual court which starts in Westminster in the middle of May, will be starting to discontinue the use of the penalty notice for disorder for shop theft offenders and will actually be reverting back to putting offenders to the court. That is a test that we will be doing in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice.

In terms of combating fraud and forgery we are working very closely with industry and there is a joint unit with the City of London police and other financial institutions that has been going now for seven years and we are looking at enhancing that capability.

A key point to make about the crime performance in London is that this is the sixth consecutive fall in total crime over the last six years. We have the highest sanction/detection rate for overall crime that we have had again in that ten years. I know that the Commissioner would want me to congratulate officers and staff, and our partners, in terms of the hard work that has been done to achieve that.

I would like to move on. Whilst we have a paper in relation to G20 that appears in the agenda I think it would be remiss of me not to comment on G20 at this point as part of the Commissioner's briefing. Can I start by reiterating and reinforcing our deep and sincere sadness and regret at the death of Ian Tomlinson and our condolences truly are with his family. We fully support

the thorough and independent investigation from the IPCC and it is incumbent upon us to await the findings of this investigation and to comply with them.

I also want to, again, reinforce the Commissioner's previous comments in response to some of the video footage about police actions that we have seen displayed in the news and in our newspapers. They are of serious concern to us and should be, and will be, thoroughly investigated. Our cooperation with the Independent Police Complaints Commission has received comment from the Chair of the Police Complaints Commission in terms of that ongoing support.

Because of the nature of those investigations it is irresponsible of us, and probably unlawful for us, to comment too much into the actual detail of those investigations, but we will make clear - and we will make clear here now - that we will not tolerate any MPS employees who make inappropriate comments via the internet. As a result of that, one officer has already resigned over comments that were made on one of those mediums. It is also the responsibility of all police officers to use reasonable and proportionate force and all police officers have to account for that use.

It would be remiss -- and I am grateful for the Chairman for the comments that he made, about the context of G20 itself. It is vital - and it is vital - that we remember the scale and context of this operation. We have already made a briefing to the Metropolitan Police Authority only last week. Just to reiterate this was the biggest security operation mounted by the Metropolitan Police Service for many, many years. The planning time that we had to deliver it was just three months. We must recognise that we have a small number of serious issues that must be dealt with appropriately, but the vast majority of officers - and there were 5,000 shift officers on 1 April alone - acted both professionally, and at times with great courage, to facilitate lawful protests and to enable the G20 and all its associated events to go ahead.

The Commissioner has asked me to stress this point: the overwhelming majority of officers, whatever the stress or provocation, carried out their duties in a professional manner, which is a credit to them and the police as a whole, and I am proud of them. When viewed against other major world cities the Metropolitan Police Service is a world leader in public order policing. However, in addition to the complaints already referred to the IPCC, there are other areas of our behaviour that have been linked to our tactics and we have received complaints on that.

As a result of that we do need to look at that criticism carefully but we do need to consider those views. We may be world leaders but we can and want to learn to be better. As a result of our tactics we have asked the HMIC to come in and to review evidence both from police and from protest groups, and to consider the learning that we can get from the conduct of officers and the tactics deployed on our G20 operation. There are always opportunities to learn from the policing of major events and this is no different and we will treat it no differently.

In relation to the concerns about identification numbers; we discussed this at some length in the briefing last week and I would like to remind Members that the Commissioner has made it absolutely clear that it is completely unacceptable for any uniformed police officer to deliberately obscure or not wear their identification numbers. However, you are also aware that numbers are sometimes obscured or come off through no fault of the officer. The MPS has also identified that the tabards that are worn to identify rank and command, as was displayed on some of the video footage has, through its Clothing Board, put the numbers on those tabards. Bob Broadhurst [Commander for Public Order and Pan London Operational Support, MPS], who chairs the Clothing Board, will be taking that forward. I think often much of it is a result of our uniform as opposed to a deliberate hiding of identity.

That completes it for me, Chairman.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Tim [Godwin]. Can I possibly ask Members whether they have any questions about non-G20 related matters before we go on to the separate item which is on the G20? Would that be possible? Jenny [Jones] and then Reshard [Auladin].

Jenny Jones (AM): I can hear the waves of doubt from behind us, but I would just like to say, as a critic of the police who has worked and lived and travelled a lot abroad, I have got no hesitation in believing that the Metropolitan Police Service is the best in the world. That is not a problem for me.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Jenny [Jones], is this about the G20?

Jenny Jones (AM): No, it is about general policing in London.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK.

Jenny Jones (AM): What I think is we cannot compare the Metropolitan Police Service with other police forces because the other police forces are failures, so the Metropolitan Police Service has to have a standard of excellence that we can all accept and buy into. I have got no problem with all the comments Tim [Godwin] has made at all, but we cannot only compare the Metropolitan Police Service to other police forces.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. That is a general comment about the Metropolitan Police Service. Reshard [Auladin]?

Reshard Auladin (AM): Can I ask the Deputy Commissioner about the press report yesterday about the settlement in court of £85,000 and a letter of apology? I was completely unaware of this. As Chair of Professional Standards I had no clue whatsoever what was going on and I wonder, therefore, whether you could shed some light on that for me please.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I must say it does seem very curious to me. Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Thank you, Chairman. Reshard [Auladin], can I just say that equally it is one that had been going on for some months, I am told, between legal representation and, as a result, missed the flagging systems. For that I apologise; it should not have happened. The actual event was in October 2006 and it was an *ad hoc* protest outside the Mexican Embassy. Local officers from the borough, which was Westminster, were deployed and, as I understand it, an inspector took a decision, that in order to facilitate the exit from the embassy of embassy staff, to seek the shift of the protesters to the other side of the pavement. That was interpreted by a sergeant as being a direction in terms of removing protesters and those that refused got arrested.

The outcome of that was the Metropolitan Police Service, on reviewing it with its lawyers, decided that those arrests should not have been made in that fashion and that was what the settlement was for; for, effectively, unlawful arrest. The assault concern was actually the taking into custody and handcuffing. There were not any, as I understand it, scuffles or fights as a result, but as a result of that we paid the compensation. That was negotiated over some months, as I say, and the settlement was agreed by the High Court yesterday and resulted in that press release.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Reshard [Auladin], do you want to come back on that?

Reshard Auladin (AM): Well I think there is an issue here about the communication problems that we have had between the Metropolitan Police Service and the Authority. This is not the first time. I will leave it there but I think there is some work to be done.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I must say I think I agree with you on that, Reshard [Auladin]. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Yes. Since we last met there has been a lot of stuff in the newspapers about an Austrian tourist who was forced to delete his holiday photos of buses in Walthamstow and of Vauxhall Bus Station by two police officers in the name of preventing terrorism. We have also had stories of an artist from my ward in Southwark who also was arrested for taking photos of construction sites because he is doing a big artistic project on the regeneration at the Elephant and Castle.

It seems to me that police officers may well be misusing or misreading this legislation. I would like to know will you be reviewing this - which I understand figures out yesterday show we really need every tourist we can get at the moment - to make sure that our reputation as a city that is friendly to tourists as well as friendly to the communities that live in London is maintained?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, and certainly on previous challenges around the legislation and photography we have reinforced our policies in relation to that which basically are there will be no

use of that power unless there is a direct link to terrorism and there is evidence to support that.

In terms of the event that you talk about, the reality as I understand it is that on 6 April two Metropolitan Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who work from Waltham Forest Borough's Safer Transport team were alerted to two people taking photographs in and around the bus station. They actually went to them under Stop & Account; they did not use terrorism powers and purely asked who they were and what they were doing. They made no point in relation to taking the cameras or to viewing and/or deleting any images from the cameras. To agree with you, Caroline [Pidgeon], it is clearly not the intention of the MPS to prevent visitors from taking photographs of our city. I think the public would expect us to remain vigilant in crowded public places and we do ask people what they are doing and 99% of the time they satisfy us with their explanation. This was purely one of those and the cameras were not taken.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. Can I go now to Toby [Harris]?

Toby Harris (AM): Could I ask what arrangements are being put in place for, firstly, the resilience of the Metropolitan Police Service in the event of pandemic flu becoming a real issue in London? In particular, what the guidance is going to be on officers following the normal practice of struggling into work even when they are ill - we have just talked about the Commissioner; perhaps we should recognise the importance of major surgery - but this is quite common that people with flu and so on do try to work through it? Also, what discussions are taking place with our agencies about managing any public order issues that may result either because conceivably services break down or because people get into a state of panic about the issue?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The one thing is that London has actually been preparing itself for a number of years for potential flu pandemics - previously it was bird flu; now it is swine flu - and as a result London Emergency Services Liaison Panel (LESLP), which is the civil contingencies planning arrangements, have got a very full continuity programme for all the important services and we are part of those business continuity plans. They have been dusted off, tested and checked, and we await our part in terms of managing the situation in London working with our partners, through LESLP, of health and others. So there is a very full plan in place.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): I just want to pick up on Reshard's [Auladin] conclusion on his question relating to this matter of the non-arrest or false arrest of these five demonstrators. Reshard [Auladin] concluded by saying that he felt this was a demonstration of poor communication. I fear that it is worse than that

because I fear that it is a demonstration of failure to understand the relationship between the Metropolitan Police Service and the MPA and what the MPA needs from the Metropolitan Police Service and perhaps, indeed, a failure to understand what is significant and politically significant. So simply, as it were, not to mention this, particularly in the current climate of concerns, seems to me much more than simply not mentioning something or failing to get around to it.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Clive [Lawton]. I think there will be widespread agreement with what you say. Is there anything that you need to add to that Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Purely that I accept the criticism. I do know what happened on this particular case. I take full responsibility for that though but things did not work out and we do need to make sure that those systems are changed and that this ceases.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. I will come to you in a second, John [Biggs]. Victoria [Borwick], you wanted to say something.

Victoria Borwick (AM): A really quick one. I just wanted to follow up on the question that Caroline [Pidgeon] asked about photographs because much to my surprise there was a Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate (PPC) who was taking photographs for her leaflet, this is in a north London constituency, and again had to hand her camera and was stopped taking photographs. It is very well that we have all read this article and laughed and said, "Gracious me, we can't be doing that to German tourists!" but actually quite extraordinarily - because I suppose they are in London and they are travelling around - we are actually discovering this is not an isolated incident. So although we get a very good answer today and I am sure it is absolutely right, I do find it extraordinary that actually we are having other people reporting this back to me. I just wanted you to be aware of that in order that we can actually desist.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): It seems completely crackers to me. I mean everybody takes photos of everything with their mobile phones now.

Victoria Borwick (AM): Well, absolutely.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think the point is we will reiterate the policy and the policy is not to use that piece of legislation unless there are grounds to actually believe it to be so. Sometimes police officers do stop people who are doing things and just say, "Hi. Who are you? What are you doing?" That sometimes gets mistaken for using powers. I can hear comments from the gallery but police officers do have to communicate and ask people questions otherwise we would not be a police service. I do take the point that if it is being used inappropriately then we must stop it.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): John Biggs?

John Biggs (AM): My question was not a million miles away from Victoria Borwick's question but I would phrase it slightly differently. I think, without delaying the meeting today, it would be helpful for us to know in what circumstances it would be unacceptable to take a photograph of a police officer or any other sensitive thing. Indeed, I think we have a duty as an Authority of our Government, which I am sure we all love in every other respect, has created a piece of unwise legislation then we have a duty, I think, to highlight its failings.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): As I understand things, we are actually doing a paper on this or a paper will be brought before the MPA on this very matter next week. Tim [Godwin], do you want to say something?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Purely that I will make sure that we circulate what the current policy is, which is very clear, and if Members pick up things then just let us know through Chris [Allison] in terms of where it is being used and we can look at the circumstances.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Brilliant.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): I should just point out also that there is an atmosphere being created to encourage the public to report people taking photographs. There is a Home Office poster campaign throughout London at the moment which is predicated on the strap line of, "A bomb didn't go off here because three weeks ago somebody reported somebody taking photographs." I have myself been in Westminster Tube station and seen people taking videos and photographs and thought, "Oh, should I be reporting this?" so I think there is an atmosphere being created by that campaign as well which is perhaps not completely helpful.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Clearly there is a balance to be struck. Dick [Tracey], you wanted to say something?

Richard Tracey (AM): Yes. Really it is another follow up on this very same point. When you produce the paper, Tim [Godwin], will it be possible for us to have some actual figures/statistics of people who are stopped under Section 44 because it is obviously of great concern to a number of us and indeed I have heard some apocryphal stories about similar very curious incidents like this.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We can do that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. James [Cleverly] and then Clive [Lawton].

James Cleverly (AM): I want to just briefly, if I could, touch on the recently launched Violence Against Women Strategy and just double check that on page 24, with regard to drug trafficking and the recent international operation for the Clubs and Vice team, can you confirm that there is coordinated action between the international work going on to prevent the trafficking of vulnerable

females from eastern European countries going on by the Clubs and Vices team, the ring-fenced detectives that are linked to the Violence Against Women work and the trafficking of drugs? Because I cannot help but feel that those three are quite closely interrelated and I just want to make sure that we are doing proactive work in all these areas, but that that proactive work is properly linked up.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We have, as you know, a Metropolitan Police Service Intelligence Bureau that actually coordinates the activity corporately in terms of serious organised crime as well as some of the volume crimes as well. That is always preparing briefs that link up, if there was a link between organised crime gangs that are involved in drug trafficking that are also involved in human trafficking, for joint operations so that coordination does take place through those means.

James Cleverly (AM): OK.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): Following the Commissioner's comments a little while back about police officers patrolling on their own, can you report as to whether anybody has actually gone out on their own yet?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I have seen several.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes, I have seen two.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think one of the things, Clive [Lawton], which is always one of the challenges for us, is that at any given point we have a number of officers in training. We peaked only a few months ago at about 1,000 officers in what is called Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP). They are the officers that are in training for street duties and they will be walking with a senior Constable. So a number of times that you see officers walking with another officer it is often a training duty and there are some occasions, for specific operations or activity, where corroboration is required or on the risk assessment, officers are in pairs, so there are other reasons why that might be. Certainly the message has gone forward.

There is some new technology that we are trying to bring through which is the automatic position location systems for officer safety which will also enable us to look at measures that we can bring back here in terms of the amount of operational hours that we spent out on the street as opposed to in police stations. We will be bringing those thoughts through the Authority over the coming months.

Clive Lawton (AM): Can I just be clear, I fully understand that there is a need for people to patrol in pairs on occasions - I am not objecting to that - and I am pleased that Boris [Johnson] has seen some single officers. I certainly have not and I checked with some colleagues yesterday who said they had not

either. I know the message has gone out, I just hope it is being acted on, that is all.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I have several times now seen a lone policeman, as I cycle home in the evening - well not very late obviously - patrolling City Road; walking on his own up City Road. There you go.

John Biggs (AM): So there is one.

Jenny Jones (AM): So that is true then!

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well, I am telling you. Thank you. I think that concludes the non-G20 questions. I think we will then, therefore, move on to G20.

102. QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

We begin with some questions the Authority has received from Mr Andrew May on behalf of a group called Defend Peaceful Protest. Those questions were in written form, I believe, and Catherine [Crawford] is going to try to answer them. If Mr May is here he then, of course, has the right of reply -- he is here. That is Mr May. Greetings. Mr May has the right of reply for three minutes to Catherine's [Crawford] answers to his questions. Catherine [Crawford]?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): Thank you, Chairman. Mr May has asked,

“Why were many police at the G20 demonstrations not wearing shoulder ID or deliberately concealing ID when categorical assurances had been made by Silver Star Commander to Members of Parliament (MPs) that this would not happen?”

Will there be a wider independent investigation into allegations of systematic use of excessive force by police against individual protesters?

Will there be a broader review into policing strategy at protests in general, in addition to the review of policing at the G20 protests?

Will the chair of the MPA meet with Defend Peaceful Protest and other groups who were at the G20 protests to ensure that any review of the tactics deployed at the G20 includes the experiences of the protesters themselves?”

My response, on behalf of the Authority, Chairman, is I would like to thank Mr May for his questions. I will give a brief response on behalf of the Authority but these issues will be explored in much greater depth in the report from the Acting Commissioner and the Member debate on the policing of G20 which will follow.

I was pleased to see that the group of which Mr May is a member is called Defend Peaceful Protest. That is a principle to which both the MPA and the MPS are committed. Public trust in policing is essential and the Metropolitan Police Service has a reputation second to none in how they facilitate peaceful and lawful protest during the dozens of demonstrations during the year. However, where there are concerns, as is clearly the case with the G20 demonstrations, immediate action is required to ensure that the police are held accountable, individually and corporately. This, I believe, the Commissioner has done in referring individual cases to the Independent Police Complaints Commission and in asking Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to review the policing of public protests, including the tactics used in the policing of the G20 demonstrations.

With regard to Mr May's four specific questions, I will ask the Temporary Deputy Commissioner to respond to the issue about identifying numbers on officers' shoulders when he introduces his report.

The issue of force used against individual protesters is a matter that the Independent Police Complaints Commission is currently investigating and it would be premature to anticipate the outcome of those investigations. As I mentioned just now, the review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will be assessing the effectiveness and impact of current public order tactics.

Finally, Mr May asks that the MPA's Chairman meet with Defend Peaceful Protest and other groups who were at G20. I suggest that, in the first instance, I should explore with the Commissioner and the Chief Inspector of Constabulary what scope there might be for them to hear directly from Defend Peaceful Protest as part of the review.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Catherine [Crawford]. I wonder whether Mr May wants to come back?

Andrew May (Defend Peaceful Protest): Yes. I have got one supplementary question in reference to the last paragraph of the Chief Executive's response. We would ask why, if one month on provision has not yet been made to include the concerns of G20 protesters and protest groups within the HMIC review, how can the Chairman of the MPA realistically expect this review or the IPCC investigations to restore public trust in protest policing?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Is that your three minute response? That is it? That is the only question you want to fire back at Catherine [Crawford]?

Andrew May (Defend Peaceful Protest): That is the question, yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, fine. Catherine [Crawford]?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): I can entirely understand why there is a sense of urgency among people who are concerned about the protest. Nonetheless, I also recognise that both the individual investigations

have an extremely large amount of evidence which they will have to consider. The review by Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Constabulary [Sir Ronnie Flanagan] has only just begun. It may seem lengthy, but it is a balance between thoroughness and timeliness and I am sure that everyone concerned is fully aware of the need to make progress as quickly as possible.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thanks, Catherine [Crawford]. Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): If I can add? As a result of this and questions from Members, because that is a thing for Members as well, in terms of having an honest and transparent review by Her Majesty's Inspector, I have spoken with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and ask that he does take evidence from protest groups. He has already received a significant package of information and evidence from Climate Camp legal team and he has undertaken that he will hear the views of protesters and has set up a reference group to support him in that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Mr May, you have notionally a couple of minutes left, I would say, if you want to come back on anything that you have heard?

Andrew May (Defend Peaceful Protest): I would just quickly like to come back on something specific around the ID badges. We would just question - obviously there have been a number of instances on film and in pictures of police officers who appear to be deliberately concealing ID - and there was a comment from Sir Paul Stephenson saying that these people would be suspended. I just wanted to ask if there were any specific rules within the policing guidelines around that particular issue and whether these people will be held to account if they still continue to deliberately conceal ID on protests?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well, I am sure it is the view of everybody here that anybody deliberately concealing ID should certainly be suspended. Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Suspension is an issue in terms of circumstances etc, but certainly we have made it very clear that it is a direction and an order from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service that uniform officers, when deployed on duty, will be identifiable by their collar number or by their badges. That has not changed and, therefore, anyone deliberately not doing that would be in direct disobedience of a lawful order.

One of the issues that have come up is that we have identified, or the HMIC has actually identified, that some of the photographs -- there are other images of the same officer from different angles and actually there are numerals on the shoulder at that point. Some of the photographs have been less helpful.

Equally the other thing that we have identified, which is an area of concern and it is our fault, is that in all public order, not just in London but elsewhere in England and Wales, there are flashes that identify sergeants and other command ranks and they slip over the collars and those actually were the

materials that were actually hiding some numbers. That was actually a requirement to identify sergeants etc. That should have the numbers on it. That is our fault rather than the officers' fault. If anyone deliberately hides their numbers, if that does take place, then it is a disciplinary matter.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thanks, Tim [Godwin]. Mr May, is there anything else you want to say or any other questions you wish to put?

Andrew May (Defend Peaceful Protest): That is all for the moment but we will probably try to submit some more questions, if possible, to the next MPA meeting.

103. POLICING OF THE G20 SUMMIT 2009

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much for coming. Thank you very much. MPA, we now go on, therefore, to the general discussion of the G20 as has been already raised by Tim [Godwin]. I do not know, Tim [Godwin], if you want to add anything to your earlier report on G20?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Not really. I know that Chris Allison, the author of this particular report, is here as well and I do not know if you want to just make an introductory comment, if that is all right with you, Chairman, and then kick into any questions?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Of course.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman, thank you. If I may, at the start, reiterate - obviously the thoughts are with the family of Ian Tomlinson - and reinforce a couple of comments from the Deputy Commissioner about the fact that the Metropolitan Police Service does not condone the use of excessive force and every officer accepts that they are, and will be, held to account for what they do. A number of matters have been referred to the IPCC, as you heard, and, therefore, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on them but clearly we will fully cooperate with that investigation.

I am not going to go through the report in detail because obviously Members have had it and we had a lengthy Members' briefing on this particular issue. There are just a couple of things that I would like to say. Again, G20 was one of the most challenging events the Metropolitan Police Service has ever had to deal with. Planned and delivered in just three months, and many events of this type will take many, many years to plan.

The summit took place without disruption and the protests were policed with limited damage being caused. Officers worked very, very long hours both before and during the protests and, as the Deputy Commissioner says, the overwhelming majority of officers, whatever the stress or provocation they were under, carried out their duties in a professional manner which is a credit to them and the police as a whole. The operation has been a subject of praise but we fully accept there are individual acts that need to be looked into, we will

support any investigation into that and we welcome the HMIC review and we will work very closely with them to implement any of the recommendations that come from it.

We are very proud of the fact that we police something in the region of 4,500 events a year. The vast majority of those pass off to the satisfaction of everybody concerned. They are perfectly peaceful; everybody is happy with those events. We fully accept that we can learn from every event. Every event we debrief, every event we try to learn from and every event we try to then put that learning into future events. That is a very important thing to say. I have been involved in public order policing for 25 years and that is the sort of culture that we have got within it. We fully accept it is our responsibility to facilitate people protesting lawfully and we do everything that we can to enable that to happen.

Jenny [Jones], I have read very briefly overnight the Climate Camp report. I got it late last night. Clearly there are elements within it that we will disagree about but I think there is one thing in there that we can agree on right at the start and it comes out in the human rights thing that came out of the House of Lords and the House of Commons that I gave evidence to, which is the importance of communication; the importance of communication before an event and during an event. It is how we work together because in the vast majority of our events that we do we have that communication with the event organiser. We agree beforehand what is going to take place so on the day of the event there is no conflict between the various parties because people understand what the event is going to look like. Certainly if we can move this forward, so that for future events prior to the event there is that good communication both sides, certainly that is something we would welcome.

Chairman, I think very briefly on that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Chris [Allison], thank you very much indeed. Before I throw it open to questions from Members, can I just remind Members of the point that we made at the briefing we had on G20, which is, of course, that when there are, I think, now four IPCC investigations going on, it will be very difficult for the officers here to answer very detailed and specific questions about matters that are currently the subject of investigation. I know that was a point that was appreciated and understood last time. I hope that we can respect that again today.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Can I make a point first?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, Joanne [McCartney], of course.

Joanne McCartney (AM): I think it would be helpful if we could deal with this debate and look at certain areas. For example, if there are questions on the Climate Camp that they are dealt with and then other people can ask supplementary questions, because otherwise we could get six of us asking all different things at different times and then returning to topics. That may be helpful; I do not know.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): It might be helpful but it is difficult at first blush to see quite where the compartments are going to be.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Well, you could start and then ask if there are any follow up questions to that question.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I think that is a very good suggestion, Jennette [Arnold]. I think we should begin with Kirsten [Hearn] and if there are any follow up questions that people have, in the broad area of Kirsten's [Hearn] initial question, we should go down that route.

Kirsten Hearn (AM): OK. My question relates to different tactics being used to police demonstrations. I am a supporter and an occasional participator in non-violent direct action and I have been so for the last 30 years. The thing that concerns me quite a lot is I had some very interesting feedback from police officers feeling a little bit bruised about the situation, I had lots and lots and lots of feedback from my brothers and sisters involved in non-violent direct action feeling even more bruised I can tell you actually, especially those who got whacked, which was very unfortunate. The thing they all said was they did not understand the tactics being used. I wonder if it is possible for there to be some kind of debate and discussion and liaison with people who want to protest to talk about different ways of doing things. People do not understand the issue of kettling.

I actually did not attend the Climate Camp which I had intended to do because I did not want to be kettled because as a disabled person it would have had significant impact upon me and it was too frightening and that is a shame because I would have liked to have been there. I know a lot of other disabled people and other people who are vulnerable or older who were also afraid.

The thing I do not understand actually is, and I spoke to some other police officers about is this that, "If we do not do kettling what shall we do?" One of the police officers said rather darkly to me, "Oh well there's always do what they do on the continent which is to use water cannons. That would be worse, wouldn't it?"

Now, I do not understand all these different tactics and I think it would be really, really helpful if there was a bit of a public discussion, consultation and connection with each other around those different kinds of tactics because I believe, actually, that most people who want to protest want to protest peacefully and most people are in support of being enabled to do that safely. I also do know that on 1 April and 2 April there were a very, very small minority of people who wanted to cause trouble and that the majority of people who were there on those two days really wanted to actually make their points and wanted to be supported by the police.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Kirsten [Hearn]. I think before we ask Tim [Godwin] to respond it might be helpful if we just take a series of

supplementary questions on that general area. Would that be acceptable to the Members?

Authority Members: Agreed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Can I, therefore, ask Chris [Boothman] --

Jenny Jones (AM): Sorry, Chairman, I think that is not entirely fair on Kirsten [Hearn] because each of us has very important questions to ask and I think we deserve a separate answer. So often when questions are conflated it means that some questions do not get answered. Even if it takes a little bit more time, I do think it is fairer on us and our questions.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I am just conscious that --

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Chairman, my question is about tactics and debate around tactics. That is what I would like to hear from the officers.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): All right. OK. Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think that has come out in other debates as well, Kirsten [Hearn], in the sense of does everyone understand what constitutes lawful, peaceful protest equally, from the position of law? Equally, what are the tactics and when are they used by police officers and who makes those decisions? I think all conversation that can pre-empt difficulty, misunderstanding and challenge has got to be a good thing. There are many groups that we do go and talk to prior to their protests to facilitate that and to explain what we will do and how we will react and respond.

I know that Jenny [Jones] has invited me to go with her to talk to members of Climate Camp and some of those other groups that Jenny [Jones] is associated with to discuss their concerns and to hear from me. As a result of that I will take that up with Jenny [Jones] and go and have those conversations. So, yes, I think there is something about having that open conversation with protest groups to support them and assist them in facilitating lawful protest. That is one of our first strategic intents.

The other bit that we will do is the HMIC review will go through a reference group protest where people will be able to give open evidence to the HMI and through the reference group and we will, of course, get involved in that. Then the report that comes from that will come here for, again, more dialogue. This is an issue that we do need to get right. I am grateful for Jenny's [Jones] comments about seeing us as world leaders but the fact is that we need to learn from this and to move forward, and if that is conversation, then the conversations we will have.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin].

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Yes. Supplementary which was I am extremely concerned actually that the needs and concerns of older people, of disabled people, of women and those with children are actually also heard and would like to make sure that we look thoroughly at the equality and diversity aspects of this because they are significant and different and often are not being heard.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. I am sure that is a point --

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): That point is well made. The containment issue I know will come up in terms of the use of containment and how we do it. We raised it at the last meeting with the Authority. I do not know whether you would want us to respond to that now, Chairman, as part of Kirsten's [Hearn] concerns which obviously Chris [Allison] who is the public order expert will be able to go through?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, please.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Kirsten [Hearn], you did mention the word kettling. It is just important to say right, and I will only mention it once, the police term for this is containment and controlled dispersal. That is what we know and that is the tactic. It is something that we have done over a period of years following other events and as I had explained at the Members' briefing the previous tactic that we used was just a clearance or a dispersal which created all sorts of particular challenges around it.

Like the Deputy Commissioner I welcome the debate. The challenge for us, as I said at that Members' briefing, is we are constantly having to deal with competing peoples' human rights. Those who wish to protest against those who wish to go about their lawful business uninterrupted and therefore, for those who are undertaking peaceful protests but unlawful protests such as blocking the highway, we are duty bound as a police service to take some form of action. Now, that action needs to be proportionate and it needs to be lawful but we do need to take some form of action. That is, for me, about the importance of talking with event organisers beforehand so that everybody understands actually what the nature of that protest will look like.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. I am going to go to Dick [Tracey], then Joanne [McCartney], then Jennette [Arnold], then Valerie [Brasse] and then Neil [Johnson].

Richard Tracey (AM): Thank you, Chairman. My question is one which I raised last week in the briefing to the Authority and it is about the communication to people in the City and particularly in especially sensitive areas about what was likely to happen and what precautions they should take. In this particular case the Royal Bank of Scotland branch was attacked, windows were smashed, some attempted looting took place, and it seems to me that it was in such a particularly sensitive spot, knowing that a large part of the protest was going to be around the bank, that they should have been briefed that the Royal Bank of Scotland was likely to be attacked.

Now, what actually did happen in terms of briefing to prevent that because of course pictures of that place being attacked went around the world and they were really very graphic in terms of protest and portraying London to the rest of the world? So what actually happened? Were they warned and did they refuse to board up or were they not warned?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman, there are a number of questions and that is one of the questions that come in to us and actually the responses to all those questions are with the Authority and will come out to you but I will cover that now. We were very careful to ensure that briefing was given to everybody about what we expected to take place at that time and Bob Broadhurst went to the City of London and to the City of Westminster and spoke to a number of traders about what our intelligence was.

I think it is quite important to say, and we have said this all the way through, our intelligence about the protest was that large numbers of people were going to come out and try to stop the City. There was not specific intelligence about violence taking place and we never said there was specific intelligence about violence. What occurred on the day was slightly different but what we briefed was what we anticipated which was people coming out intending to stop the City by blocking roads, making their way into buildings and stopping businesses going on.

We do not brief premises about what they do to their own premises; it is purely a matter for them. So those premises within the City on the basis of what we told them who decided to board up the outside of the premises, that was done totally off their own bat. We did not ask them to do it, we did not request them to do it and in most cases we would not do that. We give people the information and we allow them to make up their own decisions. As I say, our briefing at the time, the aspiration of those who wanted to come out and protest was they wanted to stop the City but they wanted to stop it by blocking roads and going into premises. We did not have intelligence of large amounts of disorder where individuals were going to try to damage property at the time and we were careful to say that in the briefings.

Richard Tracey (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much. Can I now go to Joanne [McCartney]?

Joanne McCartney (AM): I am going to return to the tactics if I can because there has been public concern particularly about the media pictures and the video footage we have seen and certainly I have had a number of my constituents, who were on the demonstrations acting extremely peacefully, being extremely concerned about tactics. I would just like to put a few things that I have heard from my constituents. I have stories of people coming down getting off the trains, very peacefully going to join the demonstrations, being

asked what are they doing, not only for their names and addresses but actually being asked to show ID before they were allowed further on.

I also want to ask about the discretion on the cordon lines as well because I have certainly had residents contacting me that they were not aware they were being cordoned in if they took part in the demonstration and that when it became extremely crowded they tried to get out, some of them were with children, and they were not able to do so. So I think we need to look at that. What became a very peaceful day out to undertake their democratic right to protest became something of a nightmare for them. Certainly the residents that have contacted me, some of them had children, they were clearly not there to cause disorder or violence but they were unable to get out. It leads me to ask about the tactics, particularly about the discretion that is on those cordon lines, and what we are doing to improve that discretion? I have some later topics that I will come in with later.

Neil Johnson (AM): Chairman, on that same point, if I may?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, I see no reason why not because you want to go, don't you, Neil [Johnson]?

Neil Johnson (AM): Unfortunately yes. I take entirely Joanne's [McCartney] point and I think, going back to Kirsten's [Hearn] comment about tactics, we probably all understand, in the context of holding the Metropolitan Police Service to account for behaving properly as the MPA, that containment of violent protesters or potentially violent protesters is hugely important and understood.

I think one of the things that needs to be reviewed in the tactical sense is how the other category of genuinely peaceful protesters can extract themselves from that situation without being involved in it. That also requires discretion from the police officers on the ground to be able to recognise the difference between somebody who is pretty obviously out to cause trouble and the peaceful protesters who just want to have their rights as a citizen.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry, Toby [Harris], do you want to ask a question on that specific point?

Toby Harris (AM): I have got other questions but the specific point was that I think I was told at one of the previous discussions I have had about this about a degree of permeability to the cordons of containment and I was then told a story - which has no doubt been elaborated as it goes round and round - about a pregnant woman who was escorted out of the cordon to go to the toilet and then said, "Look, I have had enough, I want to go home," and then, "Oh no, you have to be escorted back into the cordon." Now, that may or may not have happened - it does not really matter. What I am concerned about is what is the guidance given about under what circumstances are people allowed through and is that a (inaudible) process.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Listen. I think we are obviously moving into a discussion of what I call kettling but I know has another term which I do not remember. Can I, therefore, propose that all discussions about the cordon technique and related matters we now put in a series because we have had several in a row? Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Chairman, it is adding to what Joanne [McCartney] said and it is bringing up a point that Toby [Harris] has raised. I have got a document, which we have all got here, and it outlined the strategy. Eleven bullet points appear under the strategy. This is Section 15 of the document that you have provided for us. I wonder if Tim [Godwin] would, in the light of where we are today, say that maybe a twelfth bullet point ought to appear there and that is about how the police seek to protect vulnerable and innocent people who are rightfully going about the purpose of demonstrations. That would include young people, elders, as we have heard from Kirsten [Hearn], people with a disability and certainly pregnant women, who, although facilities were provided, they were not provided within the area where people were contained. In fact I would say their freedoms were being interfered with and if that is not unlawful arrest I do not know what is.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Jennette [Arnold]. Any more questions about the containment strategy and how it was put into effect and what improvements we could ask the police to make? Chris [Boothman]?

Christopher Boothman (AM): My question is has the Metropolitan Police Service sought advice on the impact of containing crowds of people for extended periods of time from behavioural experts? I ask this question in the context of Notting Hill Carnival actually because last carnival I was actually present when the carnival parade was effectively contained at Ladbroke Grove Bridge and I have to say and I witnessed - - I am not a behavioural expert I have to say, I am a lawyer but it seemed to me that there was an impact both on the police behind the line and on the crowd. Some of the reactions were reasonable on both sides but some of the reactions seemed to me to be quite worrying and I left with the distinct impression that the effect of containing the crowd for an extended period of time actually had an adverse impact and may have contributed to the bottle throwing that then happened.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): So containment can actually exacerbate the problem. Any more questions? John [Biggs], you wanted to come in?

John Biggs (AM): Just a quickie. We had a private briefing as Members on some of the issues around this the other week and something that came out of that was that this thing called kettling was designed, as I understood it, in reaction to a number of other protests where, without containment, groups of people broke away into smaller clumps and caused difficulties elsewhere. So although the vast majority of people might be very law abiding, a minority who might be set on other activities would break off and it would be very difficult to police that. I think Oxford Street was a place where this happened several years ago.

The question in my mind is although that may be a risk I think members of the public would like to be assured that there is an extremely thoughtful process which does not lead to that being the default option out of convenience for policing but which does allow us to recognise that little old ladies with walking frames are unlikely to be trashing banks.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, John [Biggs]. A lot of specific questions about the rights and wrongs and the modalities of kettling. Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): No, I wanted to go back specifically to Kirsten's [Hearn] point about having that open discussion around what are acceptable tactics and this is not something that just gets taken up with things called protests groups because any one of us at any time may want to be a protester and we want to have the right to do that. So what I am saying is that that future discussion has got to be taken with the public at large about what their rights are should they wish to stand up and be counted and protest.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): I am still deeply uneasy about all that I saw but I have to say that the briefing that you gave to us Members of the MPA the other day helped me understand more - as John [Biggs] has said, the balance between these things, which I did not understand before - and were not helped by the current discussion or information that has gone on. What I would like to know is what you have done or are doing or plan to do to facilitate such, even if not discussion - and I prefer discussion - information? There are around the City, for example, a whole range of Community Engagement Groups and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and so forth. Is there a programme to go and explain to these groups what is going on to encourage a conversation or a discussion because quite clearly what seemed to me valid things that you had to say when you spoke to us are not getting out and are not being explored and that cannot be to the benefit of anybody?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Clive [Lawton]. Any more specific questions about containment strategies? Kit [Malthouse] and then Jenny [Jones].

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes, I had two questions. The first was about the difference in tactics between the demonstration that took place in the City and the demonstration that took place at Trafalgar Square because my understanding is that the Trafalgar Square demonstration on the same day went off completely peacefully with no problems and what the difference was in the situation between the two as to whether different tactics were employed?

Secondly, also in regards to the demonstration that took place at Bank. My understanding was that at first you operated a permeable cordon where people could freely move in and out. At that stage there was no problem. I think we would like to understand a little more what the trigger was for you to then close the cordon in and go for full containment and at what point you make that

decision, how that decision is made and recorded and what evidence you need to see to bring that into effect

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thanks, Kit [Malthouse]. I am going to go to Jenny [Jones], then to Dee [Doocey] and then I think we are going to wrap up the discussion on G20.

Jenny Jones (AM): I wanted to talk about the kettling in the Climate Camp so perhaps that is a different topic. We could tackle that next perhaps.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We will do that separately. OK, Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): I want to talk about police tactics as they were allowing people out of the kettle. Is that OK now?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, I think that is appropriate.

Dee Doocey (AM): OK, what I would like to know is we have had lots of reports, when people were leaving the kettling area, that the police were demanding that they delete mobile phone images and they were citing anti-terrorist legislation which, of course, is not true. I just wondered if we could have a comment from the police as to why this happened and what they are actually going to do about it.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Certainly.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): If they did it was not very successful!

Dee Doocey (AM): Well the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) then confirmed that this is totally contrary to anti-terrorist legislation.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. That is a serious and substantive question. I think there are a lot of detailed points there, Tim [Godwin] and Chris [Allison], from Members about containment strategies and I wonder if you could just run through your answers.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): If I do a couple of very quick ones and then over to Chris [Allison] in terms of the more detail around public order tactics.

Jennette [Arnold], in terms of protecting vulnerable individuals, which picks up Kirsten's [Hearn] point of do we do enough about people with disability, etc? I think that is a very good point that has been made and we will take that one away and I take that as the vulnerable protester and do we do enough to look after those and we will consider that.

I think the other point that I would like to say is that one of the things that has come out from having 638 neighbourhood teams is that we have got the opportunity to have far better conversations with Londoners than we have ever had and we have certainly done that in relation to the policing pledge.

Actually, from Clive [Lawton], I think that is a very good point that I think we would want to take that up. Have we got plans before? No. Have we got plans that are going to come out of this? Yes. I think that is a very good thing that we should be doing and using some of our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) partners.

In terms of not just taking from protesters; that is absolutely true. A number of other people will be encouraged to participate in that review and there we will have the views from the 630 neighbourhood panels, but additionally the Corporation of the City of London, I am sure, would want to have a view and others as well. So it will not just be from one perspective, as it should be.

In terms of the actual issues about in and out of containment cordons and what the trigger points are; Chris [Allison].

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Thank you. If I just run through what happened part of the day and our tactics behind it it might not answer all your questions in turn but hopefully will answer them all.

If we start right at the very start, Joanne [McCartney], with your one about individual officers asking people for names and addresses before they went on the protest.

Joanne McCartney (AM): And to show ID.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Right. The only explanation I can give for that is if officers were doing individual Stop & Accounts because they had a reason to speak to an individual rather than everyone. It certainly is not the policy in terms of policing that anybody who goes on the protest we want to know who they are or get all their details. That is not our policy and that is not our practice. There may be individual officers, for a variety of reasons, who have chosen to identify or speak to an individual and part and parcel of what we say we will do as an organisation is when we speak to people then we complete a Stop & Account record to make ourselves accountable. So it may be that in the first place that that is why it was being done. Let me reassure you it is not our policy that you have to show ID and you have to give us all your names and addresses before you can protest. We fully accept it is people's right to peacefully and lawfully protest.

What occurred on the day, and as is covered in the report, we ended up with four separate groups meeting at four separate locations and making their way through to Bank. We had had no discussion with them before and no organiser had come through and spoken to us about this protest. In effect what you have got is a march under the Public Order Act, except they have not notified us at all. We followed the individuals as they went and they made their own way to the Bank of England area. Once they had got themselves in the area that in effect that group wanted to - and it was a very large area for the number of people that were there - a decision was made by the ground commander to put cordons at the periphery. This was not to push the crowd

into a smaller place; it was just in effect to mark the edge of the protest area. That was it. OK, protesters have turned up, there are about 5,000 and they are in the Bank. OK, what we will do is we will put filter cordons.

Now, filter cordons can be a variety of things. They can be one way, they can be two-way or they can be absolute. In the initial stages the cordons that were put in place were filter cordons and people could walk and to and from. No problems with that. It was just done there to mark in effect the edge of the protest area so that we ended up minimising the disruption that was taking place elsewhere, recognising it was a very large area for people to be in there.

The comment was asked by Kit [Malthouse], "What happened? What changed?" At some point a group of individuals decided that they were going to attack police lines. Individuals masked up. We had coins and things, such as flares and other things, thrown at police officers and as a result the cordons were made --

[Disruption from the public gallery]

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry, Chris [Allison], just for the benefit of people in the audience, obviously heaven knows you have a right to be here, a right to watch our proceedings, but there really is no point in trying to disrupt them. I think it would be satirical if this important session in which we are trying to get to the bottom of what happened at the G20 was actually disrupted by protest itself. I will have no hesitation whatever in suspending the session if we have serious disruption.

Jenny Jones (AM): They will clear you out and then it will not be in public anymore. We do not want it in private, we want it in public. If you keep shouting he will clear it and then --

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Jenny [Jones], I think it is a mistake to enter into too much ... we want to hear from Chris [Allison].

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Thank you, Chairman. So the decision was made by the commander on the ground that it was now time to put the cordons in and make them firm cordons. The concern was, at that time, there was a group of individuals - and, again I have said it at the Members' briefing and I will say it again here - we accept there was a minority of individuals who were there and wanted to create disorder and wanted to create damage. Those were the individuals who clearly started attacking the cordon lines. The fear of us at that particular time was that group, if left unchecked, would then go on the rampage around various parts of the City of London and commit criminal damage and disorder. Therefore, it is duty bound for us to take some form of action.

We fully accept there are challenges with the containment option and fully accept that you end up with then a number of different people inside. You end up with people who are peaceful protesters who would have no desire or would never get involved in any criminal damage or disorder. We also accept

that in those cordons there are individuals who may have absolutely nothing to do with the protest but may just work in that area and are trying to get out of that area or go back in. As a result the learning that we have had from when we have used this protest and the learning from the 2001 Oxford Circus was we should seek to do everything we can, first of all, to get people who are completely innocent and nothing to do with the protest out and then, wherever possible, if we can, identify those innocent protesters, those who are not likely to commit disorder, to let them out.

This is not an easy thing to do and, to be quite honest with you, if you are confronted with a protester how can you tell the difference between somebody who has been or may be violent with somebody who is perfectly peaceful, but we try our best when they approach the cordon line. That is why the Bronze Commander, the person responsible of that particular scene, put in place a number of the specific learnings from previous occasions. So we did put into that cordon area toilets - that was a lesson from 2001 - we did put in that area a significant amount of water to enable people to get the drink in case they needed it - this, again, learning. The officer also responsible -- ladies and gentlemen, I will continue speaking if that is all right with you; I will just keep talking.

[Disruption from the public gallery]

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Chris [Allison], I am very sorry to interrupt you but I really must tell the audience that if there is one more interruption I will have no choice but to suspend the meeting. It is not sensible to continue a very serious discussion about what went wrong at the G20 for the elucidation not just of people in this Chamber who have come here but for the elucidation of millions of people across the country that deserve to have these questions answered by the police officers who have come here. I think it completely wrong that a tiny minority in this Chamber are seeking to disrupt that process and make it impossible for millions of others to get to the bottom of what is happening. I will have absolutely no hesitation in suspending the session if this continues. Chris [Allison]?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Thank you, Chairman. Again, learning the lessons of previous events, the ground commander also tried to ensure that he had a chief inspector responsible for each pair of the cordon lines to try to ensure that we were releasing as many people as possible who were clearly not part of the violent bit of the protest. Am I going to tell you that everybody got out? Now clearly they did not because it is very difficult to be able to differentiate as I said. There were a number of occasions during the day where actually there were not complete cordons around that area where people did have the opportunity to get out. Some people chose to; other people chose not to.

If we just talk about the advice bit that was talked about and Chris [Boothman] made a comment about Notting Hill Carnival last year. Chris [Boothman], forgive me, we did not put any containment in at all around Notting Hill Carnival last year. What ended up as a result of some disorder that broke out

was a cordon across a road but people could have gone either way on that road. Now, the reason I think many people were thinking, "Well I can't go the direction in which I want to go," but there was no cordon and people were free to move at the carnival in the Ladbroke Grove incident that we are talking about.

Our experience of when we actually put a containment in is rather than the disorder getting worse actually, in comparison with the dispersal option that I talked about with various Members last week, the violence actually goes down as a whole and as an entirety. You may recall when we have a violent crowd where disorder breaks out, in the past our tactic was one of dispersal. We would end up dispersing the group through wherever the protest was taking place -- and this is not a training establishment, these are the streets of London when we do it. Those who have become emboldened and are willing to commit crime and disorder, and have become emboldened because of being part of a large group, all of a sudden when they are dispersed, once they had been that emboldened and they are quite willing to continue to commit it, even in smaller and smaller groups, and as a result the damage is far more widespread and the impact on the general public is far more widespread.

Our experience of doing cordons -- and we have done these at N30 [30 November 1999, date of the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference protests], we have done it at the May Day 2001 and a number of other subsequent events. Again, I put it that these are very, very rare occasions that we use it; 4,500 events a year. It is very, very rarely that we actually have to use this option but our experience when we do use it, actually the violence within the majority of the crowd goes down. Most of the people within there we accept, "I don't want to be part of this, thanks very much." There are those who might have become wrapped up in it and suddenly go, "Oh, well I'm now going to do a bit of disorder". They themselves calm down and all we end up dealing with is usually at the cordon lines the violent protesters. So the experience of ours is actually the levels of violence are reduced.

In terms of the specific question about Trafalgar Square that Kit [Malthouse] asked about; again that is where I would say - and it is back to, Jenny [Jones], our discussion earlier - it is about the importance of having dialogue with an organiser beforehand. That was the Stop the War Coalition. It was a march from Grosvenor Square. Actually we ended up reducing the policing on that event down to barely nothing, compared with the start of the day because of the challenges we were having in the City. That event passed off perfectly peacefully and I would say that is in part because there was an agreement between the police and the organisers beforehand about exactly what was going to take place and we worked together with stewards and with the event organisers to make sure that that happens. For me, it is a case study about if you work together we can make these events pass off safely and peacefully and to the satisfaction of all.

I think I am just going to reinforce a couple of the other bits that Tim [Godwin] said. We would welcome the debate. I know the wider debate about how we

police public order is going to form part of the HMIC inspection where we engage with community groups, we engage with the wider public -- because it is not just about protest groups, it is also about everybody in society. There are those who wish to protest, there are those who do not wish to protest but may in the future and there are also those who want to go about their business. We need to engage everybody so that everybody understands that policing of public order is complex. The balancing of different people's human rights is a challenge. We are the people who will have to do that and as a result any advice and guidance we can get from others we are more than willing to listen to, but what we welcome is that open debate about the whole area that we are having to police, just not a small little bit.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Right. Thank you, Chris [Allison]. I want to ask Members whether in the course of Chris' [Allison] and Tim's [Godwin] answer they felt they had enough detailed answers to their particular questions. I do not think we heard about cameras for instance.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman, I have not. I have suddenly realised that one. I am sorry, Dee [Doocey]. I am not aware -- there is no policy, there is no tactic which will say to our officers, "As we release people we will make them either give in their cameras or delete photographs". I am not aware of that. I have not heard of that. It is certainly not a tactic of ours and I will go back and take a look at it, but let me reassure you that is not part of it.

We fully accept that we are accountable and we fully accept that people are going to film us and they have the right to film us. In the same way as we film individual protesters and, in certain cases, as people leave the lines we will film them to gather evidence for future prosecutions. Let me reassure you it is not a tactic and it is not a policy that comes from anybody within the command of these events.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I think if there is evidence of that then it should be brought forward. Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Can I just ask a question? Is Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) a tactic or is that a separate area?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Well, CCTV, Jennette [Arnold] --

Jennette Arnold (AM): Well, I have got a question about CCTV, so is it tactic or should I wait and bring it up later?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Oh, I see. I think we should bring it up later. Chris [Boothman]?

Christopher Boothman (AM): Yes, before that Boris [Johnson], my question was about whether or not the Metropolitan Police Service had sought advice

from behavioural experts on the impact of the tactic on crowds over extended periods of time?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We have not specifically sought advice, Chris [Boothman]. I was at a presentation last year where we had a number of academics talking through various issues about crowd management and crowd dynamics. Certainly in terms of the training that we give to members of the public order cadre, part of that is about crowd dynamics; so what happens when you do certain things to a crowd. We ensure that those in command are aware of the impact of the tactics that they may use so that we can try to minimise the effects of them.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): Just to follow up Chris' [Boothman] point. Again, when you gave us the briefing the other day you divided up the folk who might be involved in such a protest as those who were entirely peacefully intended and would continue to be throughout; those who were full of villainy before they started and those who could be persuaded. You identified a group of people you said who you do not really know why but they get stirred up and excited. Now, this is precisely the same material that Chris [Boothman] is talking about and it seems to me that we are not then talking simply about crowd behaviour, how groups of people behave, but how groups of people act upon individual people; how being in a crowd affects the individual, not how crowds behave.

It seems to me, on an entirely layman's basis, that being contained in a space, getting angrier about nothing that I originally intended, "I came to protest and now suddenly I am not allowed to do anything and I can't get out. What's going on? Nobody's explaining to me," and so on and so forth, must make people now shift their attention from the original protest to then getting angry with their limitations. Much more research and attention has to be paid to that, I think, and it has got to be a factor in resolving this issue.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Clive [Lawton]. Do you want to come back on that at all?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Clive [Lawton], it is clearly one of the things that we will take a look at. Certainly our experience of it has not been that particular way but that is not to say it will not go in that way in the future. Certainly what it does do is it causes concern and we have the debates like we are having now and we welcome these debates with individuals saying, "I was contained and I couldn't get out. I wanted to get and I was perfectly peaceful."

As I said earlier, the challenge for us as the Metropolitan Police Service is how do we manage that group that are violent within it and that group that are violent they do use those peaceful protesters as cover. It is a way in which we try to separate the two because, yes, it would be great if we could separate those violent protesters away from everybody, isolate and contain them and

allow peaceful protests to go on. That would be the ideal but it is very challenging.

Clive Lawton (AM): I am sorry, Chairman, just to come back on this just for a moment. I take your point and you say - no reason to argue with it - that violent disorder diminishes if you exercise this, that is that people do not act however angry they are feeling. There are consequences, obviously, to that anger which is not necessarily what they do on the day or there and then. We know now that the criterion by which the police are going to be judged is confidence and, therefore, how the police manage the aftermath as people are walking away, how they talk to folk, how they explain to communities and all the rest of that stuff is critically important in this. That is if you are going to behave in a manner which you know is going to affect people's attitudes, not necessarily their behaviour but their attitudes, then there needs to be a strategy for dealing with those attitudes thereafter because you do not want law-abiding folk to then be angry with the police three days later.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I fully accept that and welcome your suggestion of us going round and engaging with community groups and stuff like that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. Members, I think we have had a pretty long discussion now about containment, kettling, whatever you want to call it. There is no doubt there is a very long way to go before the public will feel that they either understand or can give a general consensus to some of the tactics that have been used. I think there is a huge job of work by the police to say there is public understanding of the tactics that we have seen.

I suggest now that we move on to the Climate Camp which was what Jenny [Jones] wanted to bring up next. Can I ask you to put your question, Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. I have got dozens of questions but I have put many of them in writing to the Commissioner already and to you, so I am going to try to keep this very short. I would also like to say something nice beforehand and that is that I am very glad that the police are offering now to increase communication before and during. I think that is a very important component of peaceful protests, so I am very happy about that. I am also very glad that the police have encouraged the HMIC to hear from protesters because I think that is a very important element there.

Now, having been nice, can I just come onto the Climate Camp? You have said that the vast majority of the G20 visit - it was much more than just protest; it was a visit and so on - was brilliantly policed. I have got no problem with accepting that, but the Climate Camp, in my view, was very badly policed. It is very upsetting, somebody like me, who has been protesting for 40 years, to see the images that we have all seen.

Last week we had the informal briefing and MPA Members were told at that that there was a rowdy crowd at the Climate Camp at about 7 pm. I know this

is very specific but we covered it then. We were told that 200 to 300 people from the Bank of England kettle had joined the Climate Camp and were standing between the police and the Climate Camp peaceful protesters.

Now, going through your report now at paragraph 47, it actually says,

“Cordons were put in place at about 7.00 pm around the Climate Camp to prevent disorderly protesters from the Bank of England joining this protest. Violent protesters did approach the outside of the cordons and were moved away.”

Now, from this report you are saying that all the protesters within the Climate Camp -- it was still a peaceful protest and yet the police used very aggressive tactics to move those people away. Now, why were those aggressive tactics used if it was a peaceful protest? I know it was unlawful but it was peaceful, so why use those aggressive tactics?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Jenny [Jones], in relation to the specifics there, the cordon was put in place at 7.00 pm and it was - let us stress - a filter cordon so if people in the camp wanted to leave they could leave. It was put in place because we had recognised that a number of people from the other protest had already joined that particular --

Jenny Jones (AM): It does not say that in your report.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): OK, I accept that and I apologise having read it now. There were already within that protest a number of people who we had concerns about and who had shown themselves to be disorderly. As a result the decision was made that to ensure that we did not end up with larger numbers of people who were willing to be disorderly to become a part of the Climate Camp area, which the command team knew we were going to have to clear because the debate we will have was although it was a peaceful protest for the vast majority it was an unlawful one because it was blocking a major highway in the centre of London, and as a result what we wanted to do was limit the number of people within it that we had to clear.

There were some people on the periphery who were cleared away, when they tried to turn up and join it they were cleared away but there were still some violent people within the Climate Camp who had got there earlier. The suggestion that the Climate Camp was completely peaceful, Jenny [Jones]; there were those within it, and sadly this happens -- there were three police carriers there throughout out afternoon, the police carriers had their tyres all smashed and they were graffitied and damaged, so there were violent individuals within that crowd.

Jenny Jones (AM): Perhaps this is tactics but when those officers were ordered to clear the Climate Camp, were they given specific instructions about

what level of policing tactics to use going up from fairly peaceful to more aggressive? Were they given instructions?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, the instructions that would have been given to the officers -- and the crowd were warned because yesterday I spoke to the Chief Inspector who was next to the Chief Inspector who used the Tannoy system on one of the carriers. The crowd were informed of the fact that we were using Section 14 of the Public Order Act and, therefore, the protest now needed to move away. The officers were told, "We will do this very, very slowly". As Bob Broadhurst, I think, said in the briefing, if we wanted to clear the Climate Camp very, very quickly we could have done so very, very, very quickly. Now, we chose not to and the team on the ground said we were going to do this very slowly and very methodically.

There were those individuals in the crowd who pushed back, who were stopping officers doing it and, within law, we are allowed to use reasonable force - I fully accept it has to be reasonable force - to be able to achieve what are our lawful goals under Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act. That is what the officers were doing. The briefing to them was, "We are going to do this very, very slowly. Clearly if you come under attack, if there is violence, then it is appropriate for you to use appropriate and reasonable force back. No more than that." That is what the officers were briefed to do and certainly that is what I have seen the overwhelming majority of officers do.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Jenny [Jones], before you come back, can I just see whether there is anybody else who wants to come in and ask specific supplementaries about Climate Camp?

Jenny Jones (AM): I have not finished about Climate Camp actually. All my questions are about the Climate Camp.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Is there anybody else who wants to ask about the Climate Camp? I just want to find out whether there is anybody else. John [Biggs], you do. Anybody else? No? OK, Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. We seem to be going back to where we were at the very beginning of this because we actually heard on 2 April there was this Strategic and Operational Policing Committee meeting where some of the Members here were. It was said, "All force used was appropriate and officers behaved professionally at all times." I actually thought that here at this meeting you had actually admitted that there were some problems with the policing and now you seem to be coming back and saying that the force used against the Climate Camp was proportionate, which I just do not believe because like many others I have seen the footage and it does not look proportionate to us.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Jenny [Jones], as we have said right at the start, there are individual acts which are being looked into and there are individual complaints that have been

made which will clearly be investigated because officers fully accept they can be held to account and should be held to account. Of the stuff that I have seen in relation to the clearance as we slowly moved in, the overwhelming majority of what the officers were doing there I consider proportionate in the circumstances. There are individual acts that will need to be investigated and looked at and we will support that investigation but it is a very, very difficult challenge for officers on the front line when you are asked to clear a road, do it very, very slowly, and you have got protesters in front of you who are deliberately pushing back or being violent towards you. That is a challenge for police officers.

Jenny Jones (AM): Can I just say on the issue of communications, it is clear from reading the Climate Camp time log, which I am sure you have seen, that the Climate Camp was, what, 100 yards long, something like that, 150 yards long?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Fifty, I think, Jenny [Jones].

Jenny Jones (AM): People at either end did not know what was happening so there was no clear communication at all. People did not know that police had said that they had to clear the road and so some people were just resisting because they had their tents and they had their stuff. You can see on the footage that after the police swept through people have left their belongings because they lost them in the melee.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): A lot of people, Jenny [Jones], moved before the police officers got there because I was witnessing part of this during our in and out of the control room and I saw lots of people who had tents, as they saw the police officers moving in from the southern end, they actually got up and moved out and were allowed out of that particular area.

As I said to you right at the start, Jenny [Jones], communication is one of the most important things in these things and our biggest challenge in relation to the Climate Camp is because we have not got an organiser to communicate with. In any other protest, like the Stop the War, there would be a chief steward next to a chief police officer and the chief police officer would explain exactly what we are about to do and why we are about to do it.

Certainly, in any future events, that is what we would ask. If Climate Camp were intending to do a future event, identify an individual or a group of individuals that we can liaise with beforehand, we can talk to, we can try to agree on what the protest will be, how we can facilitate that lawful protest in a way that minimises the disruption to everybody else so the protest still takes place but other people still get their rights as well and then, if there are problems on the day, then the senior police officer can then liaise with the event organiser and say, "Look, we've got a problem with this particular bit. Can you help us try to sort this through?" Usually then the first element of intervention is not a police officer but is a steward who is actually acting on

behalf of the organisers. That is how it works for the majority of events we deal with.

Jenny Jones (AM): I think two points come from this. First you have got to start the dialogue early and, with the Climate Camp this time, the dialogue was started very, very late and, therefore, there was not the opportunity for those delegates from the Climate Camp to keep going backwards and forwards and get ratification of what was happening. I have also got a complaint because I asked to be let into the kettle at Bank of England and I was refused, so that is my complaint against the police on the Bank of England kettle.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Jenny [Jones]. Obviously that is pertinent to the last discussion about containment tactics generally. John [Biggs], you wanted to ask a question about Climate Camp.

John Biggs (AM): Yes, I think we are at risk of having an extremely lengthy debate about public policy issues but I think, for the record, I have a concern about the use of the term innocent protester as against presumably non-innocent protester. I think clearly if someone is throwing a brick at someone I would not describe them as innocent and if they are standing there knitting, I would think they probably were, but there are massive distinctions in between those including shouting at the Mayor of London for example. Is that an innocent activity?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Wholly blameless.

John Biggs (AM): Being rude to a police officer; is that an innocent activity? I think there is a lot of unhappiness there about people feeling that they are legitimately exercising their voice. The point being that protest does require you to be noticed. You could have a protest on a moor in Scotland and no one would notice it. It could still be described as a protest but because it had no attention it would not really have any purpose would it?

There is that sort of stuff which I think is a legitimate matter of policy discussion. It does raise issues, not least about your leadership and about the civic leadership - not specifically just you - in London and about how we help to guide our police service in managing events such as this. Because I think there are people who would think that pitching a tent on Bishopsgate is a fairly high profile conspicuous activity but it does not really offend anyone although it might cause problems for the bus services. So there are questions which ordinary people might view this in which are different from those in which well-trained police officers who understand the Public Order Act will say this is clearly a breach of Section 14 or something.

Now, I vaguely remember Section 14 but I am sure that 99.99% of Londoners have not the faintest idea what Section 14 or Section 4 is. So I think there may be a question also about communication. Although I have no solid evidence that you were in breach of what was required in terms of what used to be called the Riot Act or reading regulations or giving people notice, I think for ordinary Londoners in that camp perhaps there are other things that could

have been done to make them aware of what was about to happen, of the fact that an obstruction was an offence which needed to be enforced against under the regulations and the fact that the public authorities in London considered it was something which the wider interests of London were best served by having cleared out.

There is a potential for people hiding behind all sorts of things here and there is a potential for a lot of confusion about what people were doing. I do not doubt that the police were acting within the framework, broadly, of their training. There may be other behavioural issues but I think that there is a lot of confusion about whether that, in the eyes of the wider public, is legitimate use of the law and prevents them from making a point that they felt they had a right to make.

You could view that as being substantially rhetoric but I think in terms of communication I think there are questions which I have had posed to me about whether people in the camp were sufficiently made aware that they were expected to clear, that there were legitimate legal grounds for them to be expected to do so and so on.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, thank you, John [Biggs]. I think that goes very substantially over some of the ground that Jenny [Jones] had already covered but clearly there are serious questions about the extent to which people in the Climate Camp knew that they were going to be moved on and there are obviously real issues about communication. Any other questions on Climate Camp particularly before we go onto other subjects? Do you want to come back, therefore, to John [Biggs] on his points?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Can I pick that one up?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, go on.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think in terms of rounding that piece off, Jenny [Jones] and I have had a fairly long conversation about some of this and I think the issue of communication is a key challenge both at the event and prior to the event.

I would like to say that in support of the officers that were planning this we would not have chosen to put on such a major operation as this with 12 weeks' worth of planning; that involves 48 protected individuals being moved across London, securing all the establishments they are staying in, securing the premises which were at the time of a fairly significant threat level. The time we had was very constrained and I think they did very well in terms of responding to that challenge.

There are lessons that we are going to get out of this and one of those is how do we communicate, what is the difference between peaceful protest and lawful protest? That is a challenge that we accept. We have asked the HMIC

to look at it but we will be discussing it through our CDLPs, through our Neighbourhood Teams and equally with Members here to see if we can actually learn from that process so that we can do better in the future in relation to it.

To do better means a two-way piece, it is not just the police that have to communicate. We have to have people who are willing to communicate with us and that is why the vast majority of the public order events in this capital city of ours actually pass off without any problems at all. I think that is a learning on both sides and not just the police.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you.

Toby Harris (AM): Could I ask something?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Specifically on Climate Camp?

Toby Harris (AM): No.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. Sorry, John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): Could I ask you something, Chairman, very briefly then which is there is always a risk that people will view politicians or public officials like ourselves as hiding behind the police in these matters, so, can you tell us whether you were involved at all in discussions about the tactics, about their legitimate use, about whether it was reasonable to clear Bishopsgate or whether you saw this as a purely operational matter and had no role in it whatsoever?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): As you can imagine, John [Biggs], this is an entirely operational matter and it would have been wholly wrong for me to intervene.

John Biggs (AM): Right. I think your predecessor might have taken a slightly different view on this and I think it is, therefore, a matter of some interest to ask what inquisitiveness you had in this and what role you might have played.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well, as you can imagine, I have certainly informed myself both before the G20 Summit and during it and after it of exactly what was going on, but I think really it would have been quite wrong for anybody in my position to attempt to micromanage what was a very difficult operation. I certainly do not think that would have been either welcome or productive.

As you can imagine there was a Gold command meeting in City Hall, we had regular briefings on what was going on but it really would have been completely counterproductive and wrong, as I say, for me or for anybody in City Hall to try to send messages downstream on the basis of half-understood bits of reporting that we were getting day by day and hour by hour.

John Biggs (AM): Let me be very clear. I am in no way suggesting that you should take operational command of the police in London. That is a serious point. Clearly that would not be reasonable. The question would be, as a civic leader, I assume that you were advised of what was likely to happen, you were advised of what the tactics were likely to be, what the risks might be from that and you expressed views about that in policy terms without interfering. I think it would be useful to understand what that guidance was that you gave to the police when advised about.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well my view was and remains that the overwhelming majority of protesters at the G20 Summit - and I think I said this before the summit took place repeatedly - were determined to come to London to protest peacefully and that they had a right to do so. On the other hand, those who wanted to cause destruction and to disrupt the lives of Londoners would clearly have to be impeded and I look to the police to do that in the most effective and humane way possible. As I say that is exactly why we are having the discussion we are having now because clearly there have been events, there have been recorded images of things that are very disturbing and it is absolutely our duty as the MPA to help to get to the bottom of that.

I also think it is our duty to remind Londoners, as Tim [Godwin] and Chris [Allison] have already said, of the 4,500 events that the police have to secure every year on the streets of London, of the overwhelming quality of the members of the Metropolitan Police Service and of the fantastic job that they do. I think it would be completely remiss of me as Mayor not to make that point loud and clear.

Are there any other questions on the Climate Camp? No? Then we are going to move on. We have done containment and tactics, yes?

Authority Members: Yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We have done the Climate Camp. Chris [Boothman]?

Christopher Boothman (AM): Quick one on ID. Can I start by welcoming and commending the speed with which the Commissioner came out publicly with his stance on the ID issue? I am actually looking for an assurance beyond the sergeant rank and what I want is for the Clothing Board, when it considers the issue of the clothing that officers wear when they are in protective clothing, the issues of officers above the rank of sergeant.

What I have noticed, certainly since the public coverage of what happened at G20, is that one rarely sees senior officers without their name tags now. What I want is an assurance that that is going to happen in relation to demonstrations in the future and events like Notting Hill Carnival; that senior officers above the rank of sergeant you will be able to identify them by their name tag where they have no numbers?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Tim [Godwin] or Chris [Allison]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am going to take this one. The answer is that we have taken some significant lessons from the feedback that we have had about the uniform, the embroidery of the uniform etc. One of the things there was in relation to cost.

In terms of our badges of rank, generally in a location there will not be more than one or two inspectors or chief inspectors etc, so they are easier to identify. It is a policy of ours to wear these uniforms that we have in terms of public order kit and facilitate that. It is an issue that we have got to pick up and we will take up with and obviously there is a bit of an issue about how quick you can replace uniform and put Velcro straps on. We will bring that back to the Authority to tell you what the outcomes of that are and work that one through with our staff associations etc.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chris [Allison], if I can just take a second bite, just a reassurance in terms of how we are insuring that it takes place now, messages have gone out across the organisation at all levels that on every public order event there is intrusive supervision from those in command as well as the sergeants and inspectors to make sure that everybody is wearing their numerals correctly. For all the Tamil protests that have been going on and that I have been regularly out there and about making sure that this is being complied with and it is. It is a clear direction from the Commissioner, clear direction, "You will do this."

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Chris [Allison]. Could I, therefore, ask for any supplementaries on that?

Authority Members: None.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): No? Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Chairman, thank you. I have got one on CCTV. I think it is to Chris [Allison] because I brought it up on the visit that I made to Special Operations Room (SOR) and I have received correspondence from my constituents and I continue to receive correspondence from my constituency about this. It is three parts. Like me, they are absolutely confused and concerned about how the Metropolitan Police Service appeared to be - well, I was going to say blindsided, but not that - unaware of the level of - I will use the term unprofessional - or disturbing - actions by some officers - these are the actions we saw that came to us via the TV - and how with all the CCTV in the world, the eye in the sky, the Metropolitan Police Service appeared not to have picked up these actions until much later on. So that is the first part.

If you did not pick up these actions and were able to act on them then what is the point of all this CCTV coverage? If there is a problem with the CCTV system that you have identified to date, whether it is timeliness or what-have-you, what assurance can you give us that you are going to move on that as quickly as possible because surely the CCTV images should be two-way? You, as officers, should use them for your policing service but you should be

able to identify and go back to the needs of - let us stick with the vulnerable protester - to say, "Vulnerable protester in odd road - wherever - let's take action," that is in a number of the queries and it is a genuine concern because we expect so much from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Jennette [Arnold], I can cover that one. There are a large number of CCTVs out there but the reality is you cannot monitor every single one of them at the same time in the command suite. What you will do is you will be focusing and prioritising what you are looking at; what are the key issues and what are seen as the key points at the time? I think the point that Bob [Broadhurst] was raising with you is something that we need to do some changes in our control suite to enable the Gold and Silver command to be able to more quickly change and view the various images. So the idea that those in command can see everything that is happening out there at the one time is just not feasible because the area we were covering on G20 was a massive, massive area, so a massive number of CCTV cameras and we could only monitor a few of them at the time.

Obviously where officers do see things in command that they are concerned about then they are duty bound to take action and will take action about it. There is a danger for us; we have got to make sure we do not police by CCTV. Now, that is not about stopping officers doing the identification of inappropriate activity but suddenly making a decision about moving a cordon from one place to another just on the basis of CCTV images -- because you are quite removed at that particular place and that is the importance of having effective ground commanders of the calibre we had out on G20 ensuring that they had the overall of their particular piece. There are some issues about the CCTV, how we manage it within the SOR and we are looking to improve that, especially in the run up to the Olympics.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Can I also add to that with your permission, Chairman? One of the other things that we have is that where you see individual acts that are criminal or that are inappropriate or whatever, some times it is very hard at that point to intervene in relation to whether it is police behaving badly or whether it is protester behaving badly. That is why we have a full set of post-incident investigation processes that kick in. There are many thousands of images that are being worked through at the moment. That is linked to Operation Seco which not only looks at individual actions by people within the demonstration but equally in the conduct of police officers. That is part of the post-incident investigation that goes on.

As you can imagine with those amounts of images it takes some time to work through, especially with the other images that have come forward and that has been run through the Gold group and the City of London. It is very hard when you are managing a major operation to take individual perspectives on individual incidents. That comes in post and that is why there is the CCTV footage.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Chairman, can I just come back?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, of course, Jennette [Arnold].

Jennette Arnold (AM): I know there are other deep issues which I am sure will be explored through the investigation. I am just trying to get over to Tim [Godwin] that there is absolutely this despair out there about this because, you see, the commonly held view is that if you had seen an attack against a police officer you would then have found the means to intervene and stop that. No, it is not for applause. This is what is nagging away at so many of us and so we cannot accept that at the end of the first day no one was able to look through those films and then if you did what you did. I am sure that is going to be the subject of the investigation.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think obviously there are many thousands of images, as I say, and your premise that we can automatically arrest someone if we see something CCTV-wise of an assault; that is not actually the case. That is why a number of people do get arrested after the event, once they are identified from that CCTV and that is true of police as it is of protest and that is what is being worked through at this moment in time and will be part of the investigation. I think, though, what the wider point is, there is a need for us, as Clive [Lawton] said, to explain public order, to explain and have those debates and that is what we are going to have.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Valerie [Brasse], specifically on CCTV?

Valerie Brasse (AM): Well, it is actually a follow on from that because if we are policing by CCTV how do we police by supervision? My question to you, really, is your assessment of the adequacy level of supervision on the ground. I know, because the paper tells me, we had 70 Bronzes deployed. I do not know how many supervising officers there were or what the ratio was to police officers, what it should be and what it should have been on the day and what was on the day. Your paper also talks about the instruction that supervisors would have had before going out and one of the issues was whether their forces were correctly dressed and displaying their numerals. What other instructions would they have had?

What were they expected to do at the time or indeed subsequently if they observed excessive use of police force, inappropriate cordon activity and officers covering up their identity? Are they expected to deal with it there and then, are they expected to immediately write reports subsequent to the event and how many of those reports filtered up the chain of command? If there were not any, is that because it did not happen or because they were not observed or because they were observed and a blind eye was turned?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I cannot give you the exact numbers of supervisors there but just for new Members of the Authority it is usually an inspector, three sergeants and 21 officers that work together as a unit in a public order situation. The rules

upon supervisors are quite plain. We expect them to act professionally, we expect them to lead and motivate their staff and we expect them to intervene when anything is going wrong of any sort. If they see an officer in a problem or an officer doing something maybe they should not be doing, we expect those officers to intervene as supervisors. That may be just a word of warning, "You're getting a bit too close to the crowd. Please come back," to if they did see something that they felt was inappropriate use of force or excessive use of force we expect those officers to take action against it. That is either by withdrawing that officer from the line or subsequently writing a report about it.

At the end of every event what happens is the officers are debriefed and the supervisors are required to produce a post-event record. It is called a 3166. Those records all go into the system and are available to the investigation, so any issues that have come out, either with running of the event or specifics about individuals, will be on those records and I would expect them - and it may not happen immediately coming straight up the chain of command, because in an event as busy as this, Valerie [Brasse], getting something through from the front line is a challenge - but I would expect them to be brought forward and would be made available to any investigation that is going on. So the current investigation by Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) will have access to all of this documentation.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Are you able to say how many there have been of those reports?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In answer to the specifics I am not able to answer that particular -- I am not aware of any but I am not involved in the investigation. Clearly the investigators will be going through that in relation to those. It is quite clear, and the Commissioner has made it quite clear, in terms of the bit about supervision. He has said in this organisation he expects supervisors to be intrusive. Intrusive supervision that not only ensures that our officers are doing the right thing, but ensures that supervisors know how good some of our staff are and what they are doing. That is one of the points that he has made very plain about his commissionership, that is what he is going to enforce and obviously we will all be pushing that and supporting that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That will all be part of the HMI review, will it? How will all that be investigated?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Right, that investigation will be part of the DPS and IPCC investigation, so if there is anything in relation to first line supervisors having taken action around individual cases that will be part of their investigation.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That will be investigated by the IPCC?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. Thank you.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Sorry, can I jump in? The IPCC is overseeing the investigation into various complaints. Our Directorate of Professional Standards working with the City of London police where there is a lot of footage being worked through, both from a post-incident investigation about criminality from protests but additionally looking at behaviours of police, and as a result of that that will be predominantly the DPS. If it is of sufficient and significance in terms of one of those that we would refer to the IPCC they will be referred as individual cases as it goes through and that work is ongoing, but there are a significant amount of hours of CCTV footage to work through.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): Sorry, if I can just say, if it is the IPCC that will only involve in the individual cases being looked at, there is the bigger totality picture of how many there were of these reports. I want to be quite clear where that is being picked up. The corollary of that is also if there were not any, where is that being picked up, because indeed if there are issues that are emerging via the IPCC investigations and there were not these reports, that too needs to be picked up.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Well, I think that would come within the HMI review.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, that might be something we want to go into when we come to discuss the motions before us.

Christopher Boothman (AM): Can I ask a related question, Boris [Johnson]?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): A related question to CCTV and supervision? Yes.

Christopher Boothman (AM): No, to this issue that has just been talked about and I am afraid it is another difficult one, Tim [Godwin]. Is anyone going to look at the culture of Territorial Support Group (TSG)? Because there are lots of concerns that are being expressed about this particular group of officers that are centrally based and, indeed, historically, there have been concerns about that group of officers that perform that function. For me, I suppose the HMIC and the other IPCC investigations may focus on the actions of individuals but what I want to know is there something about this particular group of officers who function as a central unit, is there something about the makeup of the team, the values that they hold, that actually produces some of the worrying behaviour that we have seen on our screens?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Chris [Boothman]. I would like to ask Tim [Godwin] to come back on that and then see if we have got any supplementaries on it.

Reshard Auladin (AM): It is the same question.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well, if you ask the same question you ask the same question.

Reshard Auladin (AM): My question was going to be about TSG. Ever since this Authority has been in existence there have been issues with a few, I repeat, a few officers of TSG. It seems to me there has been a reluctance on behalf of the organisation to look at what TSG does and as to whether there is a better way of delivering the service that they do. There had been suggestions made in the past, for example, I made a suggestion about dispersing all of the TSG groups within boroughs but extracting them on a weekly basis so you still have the central group of people that you required to do the work that TSG is doing at the moment. There is this reluctance and I do not understand why because there must be other models of policing public order as well as some of the work that they do.

Now, the question that I think Chris [Boothman] asks about behaviour; TSG are normally sent to very volatile and sometimes pressurised as well as confrontational situations. I wonder, therefore, whether these officers become desensitised and, therefore, they more or less become battle hardened, if you like, and, therefore, do not make the connection that other officers normally do when they are policing. Can I ask again: are we going to see a review of TSG as to whether it is the right model of policing in the circumstances in which they are sent?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Can I start by saying that TSG officers are some of the more highly trained uniformed officers that we have as members of the Metropolitan Police Service and I am often, when I read the daily reviews of what officers get up to, humbled by the courage that they show in certain scenarios and situations. They are the ones that are deployed into difficult situations. They are the Commissioner's reserve. A police service such as ours does need that reserve that is available and trained to take on some of those most challenging issues that we have to support their borough colleagues.

That does, by the very nature of it, put them into conflict and confrontation situations somewhat more than some of our other officers, but the vast, vast, vast majority of the TSG are extremely professional, are extremely competent and lawful officers. Every now and again in any organisation, and ours is no different to that, we have people who, for whatever reason, let us down. Fortunately they are often few in number and we have had some incidents where we have been let down by TSG officers, but we have been let down in other areas as well by individual officers on different occasions. That is out of 32,000 police officers.

What do I think about the TSG? I think they are a very professional, very responsible and necessary area of our activity. Do we need to make sure that we are looking after them? Well, yes, we do. Not in the sense of what some people might think, but in the sense of if you are exposed over and over and over again to confrontation situations, a bit like our child abuse teams and

others, we do need to manage their stress levels and we do need to make sure that we supervise effectively to know when people need a break. It may well be that that we do need to look at in terms of how do we do that and to make sure that we look after our staff and we use our supervisors.

Will I be able to say that they never make mistakes? No. Will I be able to say that one or more of them has, on occasion, used excessive force? No. Can I say that the vast majority are extremely professional, brave officers? Yes, they are. When they do step over the line they are dealt with as all the other officers of the Metropolitan Police Service. I think it is very, very, very unfair to single that particular part of the Metropolitan Police Service out for specific scrutiny in that fashion. I think what we need to do though is to make sure we are looking after them appropriately.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Tim [Godwin]. I must say that I do think that there are specific concerns about the TSG and I have heard and read this many times. I wonder whether this might be a subject that we would want to look at in more detail. Go on, Reshard [Auladin]?

Reshard Auladin (AM): Can I ask you then, as a policing model, when was it last reviewed and why is there this reluctance to review as to whether it is the best way of doing the business or not?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am sorry, in terms of wanting to be very clear about certainly my views of the TSG as individual officers. In terms of looking at whether we can do things in a different way or do it better, that is an ongoing constant review that we go through in any event.

Obviously the current central operations command was set up a few years ago and that was when it was last reviewed. In terms of where we go next in terms of fiscal challenge, budget process and planning processes obviously all that gets looked at again. We also do look at individual areas where there are sickness-related or even where we get more complaints and we monitor those and intervene at that point in different OCUs and commands. All that is constantly being reviewed of which TSG form a part of it. Certainly there are concerns. It is an issue we have to expose and have a transparent debate about but what I would say before we go through that process, "Please do not judge them on the basis of the activities of a few".

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That is certainly a very fair point. There is a public confidence issue which I think needs to be addressed. Anything specifically more about the TSG?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman may I just come in on one?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, sorry, Chris [Allison].

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am aware and just want to pay tribute to the current command team on the TSG

who, recognising the issue that Reshard [Auladin] is talking about about ensuring TSG understand communities so they do not feel devolved. Lots and lots of work has been done in actually trying to get them to work closely with Safer Neighbourhood Teams. One of the particular bases has recently won an award for its community engagement activity. So the current command team are ensuring that wherever they can they get these officers out and engaged with local neighbourhoods and wards so they do not just do one sort of policing, they are engaged with other stuff and they will continue to do that because they see it as being important.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Chris [Allison]. Any more specific questions? Graham [Speed]?

Graham Speed (AM): Yes, thank you. It is to pick up on the last point about TSG. I think that it is entirely wrong to link the two valid issues. There are issues we are talking about; G20 and the police and the policing of that. Clearly there are some issues that have arisen from it.

I would certainly support the views expressed by Chris [Boothman] and Reshard [Auladin]. I think that there are some underlying questions to be asked about TSG. Perhaps I would see it more as an opportunity for how they -- they are essential services that they provide, it is a pretty stressful aspect of policing but I think it is incumbent upon this Authority to take away some actions from this.

It would be entirely wrong to say that we have had a debate and as a result of that there would be a review in the activities of TSG. They are not linked activities in my view, however, there is an opportunity, and I think it is overdue, that we were to look at the activities of TSG, see what opportunities we may be able to pursue in terms of, as Reshard [Auladin] has said, potentially altering the way that they are deployed and managed and whether there can be a closer working relationship with boroughs.

I certainly recognise Chris' [Boothman] point. TSG has moved on some considerable distance and I would certainly recognise the work that it is doing with regards to engagement and working with communities but I think there is still a debate to be had and there is still more to come from this. I think it ought to come as an action point that we would like to have a report back and further discussion, but I really would not wish to link this to the outcomes from the G20 debate.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I understand the point you are making completely. Can I propose that under Metforward, which I think we are going to come to a bit later on, there is an opportunity obviously to discuss the culture of the TSG in much greater detail? I certainly think we should take that forward as an action point.

Jenny Jones (AM): Can I come in on Valerie's [Brasse] point?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): After John [Biggs].

John Biggs (AM): I do appreciate this is a lengthy meeting on important issues. My temptation is to support the view that the TSG does need some form of review and that clearly what has happened might point towards that. Before doing that, and in terms of balanced debate, I remind myself every time I think about this that we did not wake up the morning afterwards with hundreds of smouldering buildings or a collapse of order in London.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well said.

John Biggs (AM): I think as Londoners we do want to have our cake and eat it. Although there may be people in this Chamber, or in the audience, who would quite like to have seen that outcome I think generally we want to have our cake and eat it as Londoners. We strongly support peaceful protest but we were mighty relieved that we did not have to have the alternative debate afterwards as well which was why we lost control. I think that is a very tricky issue.

I am from the left, I do not like Conservatives at all and I know this is an area on which they would retreat to motherland and country and all that nonsense, but I think that as a citizen of this city I want to live in a city that is peaceful and is well policed and the policing is by consent. I think you do need to have officers who are trained to deal with situations like this. Whether they are called the TSG or the Special Patrol Group (SPG) which was disbanded, or whether they are embedded in boroughs and come out, or whether they are adequately trained in other ways is a moot point.

If we wish them away and pretend that we could police London without having some sort of trained capability that dealt with situations like this we should remind ourselves that this is a city where we do not use water cannons, we do not use plastic bullets, we do not use tear gas which is a common usage in a lot of other places in the world. In no way am I trying to defend unacceptable behaviour but I think we should acknowledge that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Everybody understands what you are saying.

John Biggs (AM): I did have a question on the back of that piece of flourishing rhetoric which was that there are a number of other police forces involved in this; there was the City police, there was the British Transport Police, there were officers from Sussex and there were officers possibly from other places as well. I think in terms of accountability and some of the reports, members of the public - this is a Metropolitan Police Authority meeting - would want to know what steps are being taken to ensure that lessons are learnt as far as their training and behaviour is concerned?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That is an extremely good question. I think the general balance of your remarks would be warmly welcomed by lots of people watching our proceedings. Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): That all gets wrapped up into the HMIC review of tactics and we will be feeding back to those other forces what the learning is, but equally, it will be a national piece because the Metropolitan Police Service is seen nationally as key leaders in terms of public order policing. As a result, lessons we learn will be disseminated round all the police forces in England and Wales. In terms of review, we are always up for review.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. Toby [Harris]?

Toby Harris (AM): Can I follow up the series of questions about CCTV and front line supervision? Firstly, in terms of the CCTV feeds that were going to the control room. There had been stories that some of those feeds included pictures of Mr Tomlinson before he collapsed. Are you in a position to confirm or deny that one way or the other?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Toby [Harris], you remember the stipulation with which I began?

Toby Harris (AM): I am well aware of that but it is a matter of fact. The other issue is about the front line supervision and the debriefing. Because although we got quite a useful explanation of the number of the forms that exists, presumably there must be some system within that of fast-tracking debriefs which have got something actually quite important in them, in that it must, presumably, go up the line if something, as part of the debriefing process, emerges which is important. I am slightly surprised that no one seems to be in a position to say, "Look, yes, we're aware of 7 instances or 77 - or whatever the number is - where supervisors reprimanded or told some of their officers off for bad - say - identification" or picking up an issue about hitting someone which then moved on. I would be interested in hearing more about that.

Whilst I have the floor, because it is getting a little out of hand here in terms of a thematic discussion, could I also ask about the role of police medics which is a concept I only recently come across --

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry, Toby [Harris], you say it is getting a little out of hand but I think we are going to leave it to the officers to answer your question about CCTV if they can.

Toby Harris (AM): Well, as long as they answer the one about police medics and what their role is because there was a well-publicised unfortunate photograph, so I can tag it on to something which was previously said earlier, about a police medic apparently brandishing a stick.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am going to hand over to Chris [Allison] in relation to the medic piece who was in the control room. We have to be very careful because it is a criminal investigation that is being undertaken and as a result of that the Contempt of Court Act applies to

us and we have to be very careful not to err against that legislation. So with that as a caveat, Chris [Allison]?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Toby [Harris], I am not aware of any CCTV evidence in the control room - and I was in the control room during that particular time - involving Mr Tomlinson, prior to the time that I saw some helitelley [video footage taken from recordings provided by a helicopter] CCTV of medics working and assisting Mr Tomlinson. So in the specifics relating to that. But certainly I watched some helitelley of medics operating and trying to assist Mr Tomlinson.

In terms of medics, again there is a specific answer to you in the questions that have come to the Authority and will come out, this is lifted from the ACPO public order manual, but basically for any event where we fear there may be some issues in terms of making sure that we look after our duty of care to our officers and also duty of care to the public we will deploy police medics. These are additional officers to the size of a normal unit. They come, they are specially trained and their job is -- as I understand it, there is the ten minute, the golden hour for medical treatment of a variety of things. These are officers who are specifically trained to give that treatment within that golden ten minutes before paramedics turn up to assist us.

On big events like this we try to ensure we have a coordinated plan with paramedics. On certain events we will ensure that there are a couple of medics per number of Police Support Units (PSUs), per number of serials out there. Again, the specific wording that is in the answer to you about what they do. I can give you more if you want but that is their role. It is not just police officers they treat, they treat anybody. Anybody who gets injured they will treat them.

Toby Harris (AM): Are they deployed as police officers at the same time?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): No, sorry, they are deployed as medics. They may have protective equipment like a shield but they are not part of the team that go forward and will do the clearances because they are specifically there as medics.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Toby [Harris]?

Toby Harris (AM): It is just that there is this image that has been shown of someone wearing a badge that says police medic and brandishing a truncheon. Now, is that something that would be normally part of duties? I am not seeking to sub-vent any disciplinary process, what I am trying to establish is do they do other policing as part of their role as a police medic?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): It is a very real question really.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The answer to that is they may well do in certain circumstances because although they are trained as a medic they are still trained as a police officer and they are

part of that unit. If part of that unit has got a role of holding a particular cordon and that cordon comes under attack, then I think it would be entirely inappropriate for them to stand back and not assist their colleagues in holding that cordon. What they do have is a specialist skill which would enable them to treat anybody who becomes injured.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Not least by them. OK. Can I just say, Members, that we have now been going for two hours. I think we have had a good discussion of some issues so far. We have looked at containment, we have looked at the Climate Camp, we have looked at CCTV, we had a brief discussion of ID and of the TSG, and of the issue raised just now about the role of medics. Are there any other big subjects that we think are going to take a long time to cover or can we just now go to small detailed questions that you may want to put? Would that be the right way to take it now?

Authority Members: Agreed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. I am going to go to Jenny [Jones] first.

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. On Valerie's [Brasse] point about supervision, DPS said yesterday that they had had 233 complaints and they were dealing with those, and some of them might obviously be the same incident, so they are going through it. They said they would be more than happy to give a briefing to this Authority. I am interested in what happens with incidents that are not misconduct and they are not under the HMIC stuff, but the misuse of tactics basically or poor use of tactics because I would argue that when you meet passive resistance, as at the Climate Camp, it is not appropriate to use batons and shields as weapons, that perhaps just pushing back is the answer. Where do you actually explore all that stuff about the misuse or look at how you could better use tactics?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Tim [Godwin]?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): When you get those as a public complaint they go down as directional control. Those are currently being referred to the HMIC, so they will be undertaken to be looked at by the HMIC and there is negotiation ongoing between the IPCC and the HMIC as to which ones go where so it will form part of that.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Jenny [Jones], the HMIC review will also look at the elements of training of the tactics as well.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Goodwin] and Chris [Allison]. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): I have got two questions on different areas. One is around small businesses. I have been contacted by one of my constituents about a small business in the Covent Garden area and whilst I understand you briefed London First, bodies like the Federation of Small Businesses claim not

to have been briefed at all about the whole G20, what was going on and what they should advise their businesses. This small business which was near to the Royal Opera House had officers go in at 8.00 am, I understand, and tell them they needed to close because they had the partners of many of the dignitaries coming to an event at the Royal Opera House. Well, this meant this small business which was a salad bar and so on - had already prepared its food for the day - they had to close up and it cost them a lot of money in terms of having to waste that food. What I want to know is: will you be considering compensation for such small businesses who through no fault of their own - they are in Covent Garden after all - have lost trade as a result of the tactics and policing around this?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Caroline [Pidgeon], on the specific, I think that is a different one, that is to do with the security operation I think. Was this to do with 1 April?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): This was on 2 April when you had the partners of all the dignitaries going to the Royal Opera House.

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think this is one maybe if we take outside. I will give you an answer here but we can get into the detail of it later. I am very surprised at that because for any of these events that we are policing with protected principles going to them, and within that group there will have been some protected partners, there would have been a security operation. Part of the security operation would have looked at everything in that area. I would be very surprised if we suddenly, last minute, went to a place and said, "Right, you're going to have to close." It is very, very rare that we would do that. It is only if there is a last-minute change in the programme.

In terms of closing for an extended period of time, again I would be very surprised if that is what we advise. I mean I do not know but I would be very surprised because quite often these protected principles are only in an area for a very, very short period of time, so what we may be saying is, "During this period of time you just need to be aware that there will be cordons around so people won't be able to get there," but that would not be for the whole day. I do not know the specifics about it and I would have to go away and take a look, but the general principle is whenever we are preparing a security operation we will make sure we go out as much in advance as we can because we have got notification of the programme and inform anybody who is going to be impacted about the security measures. Certainly that was the case in relation to the ExCeL area. All the businesses in the periphery of ExCeL had extended discussions with the security coordinators about what was going to go on and what was not going to go on.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): I appreciate that and you have said earlier you had spoken to the City of London and City of Westminster traders and so on, but this was a different area, different borough, and it just is of concern to me that traders could have lost out on business who have been told to close for significant periods of time because they were not briefed in advance and so

on. I am just wondering what compensation you will be considering paying out to them, working perhaps with the Home Office.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Can I suggest, Caroline [Pidgeon], you continue this discussion offline? I think that Chris [Allison] has already said that he will be happy to continue that conversation.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): I think it is an important point because there is a cost to businesses in London of policing such events.

My second question is on a very different area but it is around media. Obviously at our briefing last week it kept being reiterated the issue of media hype and concern and there was particular nodding around this. When I was reading up on the press cuttings I noticed a column in the *Telegraph* that talked about, "Protesters will taunt the police, they will paralyse traffic, they will do their utmost to spoil your day" and so on. I think this was actually your column, Mr Mayor, and I am wondering whether on reflection you perhaps believe, given what has happened, that it was appropriate to use such language.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well, I do not think if you looked at what happened that you could say that I was not vindicated by events. I think it was wholly appropriate.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Can I follow up on that because I was going to raise this issue as well?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry, are there any more questions to the two officers before we go to the motions?

Dee Doocey (AM): I have got a question on airwave, is that appropriate to put it now?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): On airwave?

Joanne McCartney (AM): I am following up Caroline's [Pidgeon] point.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, OK, and then we will go to Dee [Doocey].

Joanne McCartney (AM): In the report we have before us at paragraphs 38 and 39 you say that you were very concerned about the media build up to the day itself and you were anxious to ensure that the messages were measured and were concerned about the hype for violence, and that the Mayor actually made some statements about not hyping up violence. Obviously I am assuming there was a concern that the media message might be playing into the concerns. Then the week previously, Chairman - I am assuming not as Chairman of the MPA or not as Mayor of London but in your third job as columnist - your article states that,

“The protesters are the alienated children of the middle classes, that they are going to surge like the orcs of Mordor, that they are going to begin the chant of hate and that it will be led by a rosining twerp draining mouthfuls of cider.”

You talk about, “The carnival of cretinous crusties” and you actually call them rioters. Now, if that is not talking up the media hype I do not know what is. I just really want an assurance, because you are Chairman of this Authority, that such action will be refrained from in future.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Well I certainly hope that we will not see any such disorderly conduct in future. I think that is absolutely right. I really revert to the answer I gave to Caroline [Pidgeon] that if you look at what happened -- and I refer to what John Biggs just said. I think he was absolutely right. It was a very great credit to the police - and the overwhelming majority of Londoners, I am sure, would agree with this - that people who did come to the centre of London, to the City, with the intention of causing considerably more destruction than eventuated, were actually frustrated. I think that the police on the whole did an extremely good job and there were unquestionably elements within that crowd who did want to cause a great deal of disruption and disorder. I think it is a good thing that they were frustrated.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Chairman, that was not my point. My point was that we have a paper before us that says the police were concerned about the media hype and that they talked to you. You went out as Chairman of the MPA and you warned the press not to continue this and not to talk it up, yet a week earlier you had done exactly that. In your article you had not differentiated between different protesters.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): No, I disagree with you completely. I disagree with your literary analysis completely. In my view those words since they satirise the crowd or the would-be crowd, in my view it struck me that they would have the effect of drawing the sting of any such intention and they would undermine their confidence in their cause to such an extent that they would not turn up. That seemed to me to be the likely outcome. Well, I think it was a pretty accurate description of some of the people we saw there. I do not hear any dissent. Are there any other questions? Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes, I have got a question on airwave, specifically paragraphs 63 and 65 of the report. I have real concerns about all the issues surrounding airwave. I know there are problems and I have had briefings and we are going to have more briefings on the Olympic Sub Committee. There are things here that say, “Mutual Aid from Sussex was brought in but there were no further operational airwave channels available.” Why? That lessons learned about the resilience of airwave and the capacity of radio channels. Well, I would suggest that the top brass in the MPS should talk to the coppers on the ground in the boroughs and they will be able to tell them the problems of the capacity and the problems with channels.

I do not want a huge explanation and a detailed explanation now but I just think time and time again we keep coming up with there are major problems surrounding airwaves which need to be fixed - they are fixable - but we need to throw some money at it and sort them. My concern is they have got to be sorted well in advance of the Olympics. We do not want to get to another huge event before we sort out the problems that everyone knows are there.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Fair point.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): There is a lot of work going on. It is a national system that we obviously have to take. The scale of London in all national systems always causes a problem on national contracts. We have been working through lots of issues in relation to airwave from building problems through to channels etc. Obviously we could go on for quite some time as you know, Dee [Doocey], in terms of responding to that. Is it a concern to us? Yes. Has it been raised? Yes. Is there money coming, hopefully, through the Olympics as well as other things to make it better? Yes. All those things are ongoing but we can give you a briefing exactly and you are going to get that through the Olympic Sub Committee anyway.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. Joanne [McCartney], is this on airwave or another matter?

Joanne McCartney (AM): No, it is on what happens now with the HMIC report. I would like some clarification if I can. I do not know whether Catherine [Crawford] is the best one to deal with that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Can we first just go to Graham [Speed] who is on airwave.

Graham Speed (AM): We are all tuned in together, Chairman. I think there is a danger in these proceedings that we have a lot of debate and discussion, we agree on a number of things and then we actually lose some of the action points out of the end of it. I share Dee's [Doocey] concern about airwave. We have recently gone through a process of negotiating a fairly substantial contract or development or extension of that. I think that rather than having a briefing offline somewhere later that maybe does not happen that we actually have an action point that says that we get a proper report back to Finance and Resources that gives us an update on this particular issue and on the capacity problem.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Graham [Speed]. Done, agreed. Thank you. Joanne [McCartney], on the HMIC?

Joanne McCartney (AM): HMIC report. We heard last week at our informal meeting that you would seek to circulate the terms of reference to us before the meeting today. Now, as I am aware, that has not come through. I would like to have some clarity about that. I also would like to know what the timelines are because I have read in the press that they are expected to do an interim report by June and then a final report by September. Is that actually

likely to happen? We have also heard today as to whether they will hear evidence from protesters. I have read somewhere in the media that they are going to, and we have heard today that we are going to ask them to do this. I am not clear about that.

The other thing I am anxious is will the HMIC report be a public document at the end of the day?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In relation to the terms of reference a final draft has come across. That will be circulated. I will circulate that. It is obviously being put forward by the HMIC to the Commissioner. We will circulate that. In terms of protest evidence being given, yes, it will be. That is part of it.

In terms of the timeframe, their intent is June and September. Obviously there is an issue that we are discussing at the moment around their methodology in relation to funding because the bill will fall to us and as a result of that that is going through and that will come to the MPA for that purpose. June and September is their intent.

In terms of publication, I am sure it will be available via the Freedom of Information (FOI) anyway, so I am assuming that it will all be published. There may be issues within it, if there are matters that link into something that may be an ongoing investigation or an ongoing trial, or whatever, then obviously then we have to be cautious about that but my intent is that it will be widely circulated because we want other forces to learn from it as well.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Tim [Godwin]. Catherine [Crawford], do you want to say something?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): If I could just add to that? I did hope that we would be able to circulate the terms of reference but Her Majesty's Chief Inspector has agreed that the MPA should be able to feed into them and draft. I am still waiting to see that draft but it is quite clear in the draft terms of reference that the MPA is one of the points at which that report will be made back.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good, OK. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): It is the same topic. Well, it is on open governance. First of all, all the letters and the questions that we have put, when can we expect to get replies back from that?

Chris Allison (Temporary Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Jenny [Jones], they were supplied last night to the Authority, so they will be straight out.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): I received them this morning half an hour before we started.

Jenny Jones (AM): OK, thank you. Finally, you know the briefings that went out to all the officers who were involved in the operation? Can we have a copy of the briefing that was given to all the officers?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): There is a Gold and Silver transcript of what they briefed out to the command teams to be briefed to all officers.

Jenny Jones (AM): Right, so that would have cascaded down, so it is the same thing more or less cascading down.

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Jenny Jones (AM): You do not keep a copy of what happened in each place?

Tim Godwin (Temporary Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Well, we have got obviously the slides and various other bits, so we are quite happy to share those with you.

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Members. I think, if you will agree with me, that we should now bring the discussion of the G20 to an end. It has been a very long and full discussion. I think we have covered a huge amount of ground. There are clearly massive questions still to be answered but some of the answers will undoubtedly come from the IPCC investigations and let us hope that the HMIC report will review tactics. I also believe that within the MPA there are questions that we may wish to address ourselves.

I would now like to thank very, very much Tim Godwin and Chris Allison for spending so much of their time here. I think they have done their level-best to answer our questions and I think we should now excuse them if they wish to leave. Thank you very, very much for coming both of you.

104. MOTIONS RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THE G20 DEMONSTRATIONS

Thank you. Could we go now to the motions that have been put to us? They have both been received by Catherine [Crawford]. There is a report attached. I am going to invite Dee [Doocey] to present her motion.

Dee Doocey (AM): Thank you, Chairman. First, I want to put two things on record and be very clear about it. Policing large demonstrations is never easy and the vast majority of police officers do an excellent job, often in very difficult circumstances. The second thing is that I very much welcome the fact that the Commissioner moved with great speed in order to instigate the HMIC inquiry. But at a time when the Chair of the IPCC felt the need to remind the police that they are the servants not the masters of the people, and when an editorial in the *Daily Telegraph* referred to the, “almost Soviet style tactics of riot policing”

there is no doubt that we really have got a serious issue of public confidence on our hands.

What we saw in the G20 demonstrations were not just isolated acts of misconduct by some police officers; they stemmed from a misguided strategic decision on how to deal with any unrest. I believe we need to revisit the strategy in order to put in place a satisfactory long-term solution. The principles set out in this motion should apply regardless of any of the investigations that are being conducted at the moment.

I want to turn to some of the specific issues. The police are always at pains to point out, and they have done so today on several occasions, that they facilitate lawful demonstrations, but what actually happened at the G20 demonstrations suggests that they regard all demonstrators as having criminal intent. So we need to re-establish some basic principles and those are the right to demonstrate as part and parcel of living in a democracy. The police, as they said today, have a duty to make this happen. It is not their job to define where democracy starts and ends, nor is it their job to try to deter or to prevent demonstrations.

Now, we also heard today, and we know this to be true, that hundreds of demonstrations take place in London every year. The vast majority of them pass without incident. On the rare occasions where there are problems, these are confined to a very, very small minority of demonstrators. At the G20 demonstrations, for example, the *Financial Times* estimated that a tiny minority, just 1 in every 1,000 demonstrators attending, were involved in violence. Therefore, we need to agree a strategy for policing demonstrations that must distinguish between the needs to facilitate peaceful protest and the need to prevent criminal acts by a minority, and I would emphasise a minority. The police must never treat demonstrators as though they are criminals.

There were many, many reports - some recorded on camera - of aggression and intimidation against peaceful demonstrators, such as kettling and baton charges. The difficulty with this is that far from keeping the peace, the use of such tactics against peaceful protestors is just counterproductive because it increases the tension and the likelihood of violence. I believe that we need very clearly to establish that aggressive tactics are a last resort against violent behaviour. They are not a first resort against peaceful protestors. Kettling peaceful protestors in a confined space for hours is simply unjustifiable. Just imagine the outcry if police tried to introduce these draconian methods to a football ground and detained all of the fans for hours on end because they knew that there were some football hooligans in the crowd. There would be an absolute national outcry.

I want to finish by just mentioning identification numbers. We have touched on this a number of times today but I really would remind you that in 2004 the IPCC raised concerns about some officers not displaying identification numbers when policing the anti-hunting proposals yet five years on we have exactly the same situation again. It has been reported that the Commissioner is absolutely furious about this. The question is: is he furious enough to make

sure that the processes that he puts in place enable this never to happen again?

I started by saying that the vast majority of police officers do an excellent job and I absolutely believe that. I also believe that we owe it to them and to the law-abiding citizens, the thousands of them, who want to exercise their democratic rights to demonstrate, to make sure that the appalling scenes that we recently witnessed will never happen again. I would urge you to support the motion.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Dee [Doocey]. Thank you. Can I now call on Jenny [Jones] to second the motion?

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. Well motions can be about a lot of things; political manoeuvring and all sorts of underhand things, but both of these motions in front of us today are actually about effecting change. We are seeing the problem and we, as an Authority, have to deal with and we have to help the police to deal with it as well. We talk all the time about wanting the police to be representatives of society but actually we do not really mean that. We do not really mean that we want all sections of society within the police force. We want more women, we want more black and ethnic minorities, we certainly do not want more thugs and thieves and other criminals. Those are the people we do not want in the police. As a deal that we have with the police we pay them well, we train them well, we give them good pensions and the deal is they behave better than the rest of society.

What we have seen over the years in public order policing - this is not the first time, this is one of an endless succession of times - the police have overstepped the mark. It is down to us to make sure that they have sufficient guidance in not doing that again. This time it is different because the public is more aware of it. Before now these abuses have been dealt with in ways that meant they just went away. We heard today that actually people have been paid £85,000 for actually being illegally arrested. I argue that kettling is illegal arrest because you are not allowed to leave. It is a reduction of civil liberties and human rights. For me the best thing that could possibly happen is for the police to say that they will never use kettling again. That is something that I think we might be able to work towards.

I do feel that a full public inquiry might have been the best way forward but it is very expensive and it is very time-consuming. What we are left with is us doing our best to hold the police to account. So I would urge you to vote for this motion. I think that either of these motions is very valid. They are both valid in their own way, so I personally will be voting for both of them and I hope everybody else does as well. Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Jenny [Jones]. Before we proceed to agree the motion, I think we might as well do it all together; I would like to ask Joanne [McCartney] to propose her motion because I understand there is an amendment proposed to both motions which we could take afterwards. Would that be acceptable?

Authority Members: Agreed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Joanne [McCartney], would you like to propose your motion?

Joanne McCartney (AM): I am proposing my motion and in doing so I echo the sentiments that Dee [Doocey] issued, and I think we have all issued around this table today; that we are glad we are not here looking at the aftermath of an operation that went extremely, badly wrong and we are looking at an issue where we are talking about civil liberties and how we protect those in future.

I think it is quite obvious from the emails and the calls I have had from my constituents that were there that there are concerns about some of the tactics used and the concerns have been echoed around this Chamber this morning.

We are here as the oversight body of the police and it seems to me that we need to take a lead in this area so that we are seen to be doing our jobs, and not only seen to be but that we are doing the job that the public have entrusted us to do. I note that it is not just the HMIC who is conducting a review but there will be, no doubt, recommendations out of the IPCC investigations. Last week the Home Affairs Select Committee also took some initial evidence and I have got no doubt that they will be taking more evidence.

I think that our job should be to take the totality of what is being done out there and conduct our own review. I am not saying that we should necessarily go over the same ground or investigate it ourselves separately if we are happy that that has been done competently enough, but there may be some issues that are not included in those reviews and investigations that we, as an Authority, think that we need to look at. One of them may be looking at the cadre of TSG and whether there is any link with public order issues, and there are other concerns been issued around this table today. I think we do, as an Authority, need to set up a panel and it needs to be set up now because we will have debate about the terms of reference. We may have debate about which of us will sit on it.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry, when you say now you mean now this meeting?

Joanne McCartney (AM): I mean after this meeting we should put in train immediately to set up a panel.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes, well we are.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Because June for the interim report, which may include some interim recommendations, is only a matter of a couple of months away so we do need that lead in time.

It also seems to me that we have got precedent in the past for doing this work. We have this Stop & Search Review Board, we have the Stockwell Inquiry. This is not just a short piece of work. It is a piece of work, it seems to me, that if there are recommendations this panel should also be tasked with ensuring and monitoring that they are actually implemented.

The terms of reference are crucial and I take the view that we would not be doing our job if we did not set up this panel and dealt with this issue. I am quite clear that this is not a witch-hunt against the police whatsoever. It has to be a rational, impartial and independent review into public order policing.

So I would ask all Members to support the motion that we have proposed. It is quite a neutral motion. It is not emotive. I think that is our job; to approach the work in that way.

I just want to make one comment and I know that Kit [Malthouse] is to propose an amendment. Can I ask before he does propose it that he takes the word Conservative off it because in this body we do not put political motions in the names of political parties on.

Jenny Jones (AM): A little slip!

Boris Johnson (Chairman): The paternity of this amendment is being disputed. John [Biggs], would you like to second Joanne's [McCartney] motion?

John Biggs (AM): Yes, very briefly. I agree with everything that Joanne [McCartney] has said. For the record, the reason why this motion was submitted in addition to the one that was, I think, submitted a little earlier is that there was an anxiety about the longer motion, many aspects of which we might agree with, does seem to both reach conclusions in its body and then set up a commission to go away and work out what the conclusions should be. We think that is somewhat contradictory so other than we may agree with the majority of that motion but we felt that this one was more succinct and clearer.

I would make one particular point about terms of reference which is that I think we have a duty also to look at the wider leadership of the G20 demonstration. I am not picking on you as Mayor - I mean I may do at some date, I have a record of doing this on other occasions - but I think the role of leadership of the Metropolitan Police Authority in this, possibly the role of other civic leaders - I remain anxious about the City of London, its rather strange police force and how that is accountable - and whether there are questions of public policy which we might want to - not probe in detail and reach conclusions on - but at least highlight the importance of clarifying as part of this.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much. John [Biggs]. Before we have a general discussion about these motions, Kit [Malthouse], would you like to propose your amendment?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes, following our discussions yesterday at the away day, I thought we --

Kirsten Hearn (AM): You probably have to read it because I have not received it I am afraid. In the interests of access of information.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes. Would you like me to read it out?

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Yes. Sorry, everybody, he did not give it to me accessibly.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): I propose an amendment to both motions and it says delete all after the words, "This Authority" and replace with,

"This Authority recognises that the job of policing the G20 demonstrations on 1 April was difficult and that the strategy and tactics adopted should be reviewed. We note that HMIC are undertaking a review at the request of the Commissioner and request that the HMIC take evidence from all concerned including protesters. We, therefore, refer this matter to the newly established Civil Liberties Panel of the MPA with a specific remit to consider the following,

- (1). Recommendations made by the HMIC in their review,*
- (2). Ensure that the principle of facilitating demonstrations and other peaceful forms of protest are enshrined in the tactics employed by the MPS,*
- (3). Ensure that the balance between facilitating peaceful protest and preventing criminal acts by a minority is always proportionate,*
- (4). Consider the circumstances under which the MPS should use more assertive public order tactics such as containment, baton charges, police dogs and horses and the possible detrimental effects of those tactics,*
- (5). Consider the circumstances under which the personal property of protesters has been seized and whether this is appropriate,*
- (6). Consider the circumstances in which officers are on duty without identification and make recommendations to ensure this does not take place,*
- (7). Consider the media handling of demonstrations where there is an anticipation of violence or disorder,*
- (8). Consider the reputational issues of public order tactics employed in the anticipation or eventuality of violence or disorder.*

The MPA recognises that many of these issues may be considered in the HMIC review which is due to report its initial findings at the end of June and we have no wish to duplicate that work."

After our away day yesterday I thought it might be a good idea to try to design a motion around which we could all unite. I did think about amending either of the motions but we would then end up with two competing motions. I raised with Dee [Doocey] some of the issues about her motion that John [Biggs] has mentioned; that it seems to come to some conclusions which we could not

necessarily support in the absence of a review. I was quite keen that we should utilise in this job the Civil Liberties Panel which was proposed internally, somewhat presciently, perhaps three months ago that it should turn its focus first of all, once it is established, through Metforward which is coming later in the agenda to this issue.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Have you got a seconder for your motion, Kit [Malthouse]?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Well, I was about to ask for a seconder, but I had not finished speaking.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, sorry. Go on.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): So in terms of what Joanne [McCartney] said I am quite happy to remove the word Conservative. That crept into a draft and I am not quite sure how. We do recognise that there is a need, both by the members of the public for the MPA to be doing its job on this issue, and I think that is the proper forum in which to do it, so I hope you can support the amendment as an amalgamation of the best of both motions.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Kit [Malthouse]. Who would like to second Kit's [Malthouse] motion? Clive [Lawton].

Clive Lawton (AM): I am happy to second.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Now, we have before us, MPA, two motions and an amendment. I imagine our procedure is to vote on all three, is it? We will take the amendment first.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Sorry, is there any discussion of any of the amendments or not?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We can certainly have a discussion, Valerie [Brasse], if you would like to offer an opinion.

Valerie Brasse (AM): I just wanted to raise a couple of points for me, which was one about there is no reference here into how transparent and open a process this will be in the amended version so I do not know whether we want a commitment to it being an open and transparent process where possible, this review. There is no mention of that. I was not quite clear whether all of these specific remits is it. Is it meant to be exhaustive or will we be thinking of other things to add to this?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): We are referring the matter to them but we wanted them to specifically consider these things.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Yes, but "with a specific remit to", is that the wider consideration or are there other things we can be proposing to add to this, because, for example, it talks about media handling prior to but does not

consider post, which I think it ought to? One of the issues that we raised today was the supervisory arrangements that happen around public order policing. Are we wanting to add to terms of reference to this remit or is this it?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): It does not say prior; it says, “media handling of demonstrations”.

Valerie Brasse (AM): No, it does not, but it talked about the media handling where there is anticipation of violence or disorder so I assume that is ahead of the game. I just wonder whether this is what we want to do. Would we want to define this?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Valerie [Brasse], on that it does not seem impossible to me that any of -- what the motions are really doing is setting up a review of everything that happened under the MPA Civil Liberties Panel. I think that is really what we are trying to get at and it seems that obvious commonsense that in the course of that there will be ample possibility to review the scope of --

Valerie Brasse (AM): Fine.

Clive Lawton (AM): Just insert the words *inter alia* just before the bullet points so that it says, “A remit to consider *inter alia* the following” and allows for the possibility of that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Certainly. Consider *inter alia* inserted. Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Chairman, I am not going to repeat anything that my colleagues have said. I totally agree with all that we have heard here this morning. Can I just say I say that as someone who was on duty as a nurse many years ago during the Birmingham pub bombings and worked side by side with police officers, so anything I have said today or anything I will say absolutely does not disrespect the professionalism of police, but I see what we have said here today and the motions that they are speaking directly to the duty that we have as the MPA to hold the Metropolitan Police Service to account. So I do not want anybody to go away to think that we are just here always looking to criticise the service.

We would welcome the amendment, Kit [Malthouse], if you could include the issue that we brought up today and certainly myself, Kirsten [Hearn] and others have raised and that is - I think Tim Godwin accepted this - that the police have a duty to undertake some responsibility for vulnerable Londoners who either are part of the demonstration or going about their daily lives and find themselves caught up in the demonstration. Like Jenny [Jones], I think we should never use corralling but if the police carry on using that tactic that clearly must be one of the top priorities that they have. We are not clear whether you have agreed that you will set up this panel immediately because we have quoted precedent, it will not interfere or hinder any of the other investigations.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Correct.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): We are in the slightly odd procedure in that the next item on the agenda we will agree the plan which then establishes it.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Yes.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): It will happen immediately.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Immediately and accept the need for vulnerable Londoners --

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes, we will put in a point nine that says consider the position of vulnerable Londoners in public order situations.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That is captured by Clive's [Lawton] expedient of putting in *inter alia* I hope.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much. Can I ask really, Members, whether we adopt the amendment? That seems to be the obvious thing to do.

Dee Doocey (AM): Chairman, can I help procedurally by saying that I will be happy to accept the amendment.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): You are willing to accept the amendment?

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, well that is very good.

Dee Doocey (AM): Because it takes account of the issues that we raised in our motion.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): So does Joanne [McCartney], John [Biggs] and Jenny [Jones]. OK, I think we have an amendment, we have an agreement and we have a motion going forward. I think we can set up the Civil Liberties Panel on that basis.