

Transcript of the meeting of the Metropolitan Police Authority held on 23 July 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Chamber, City Hall, SE1.

Present:

Members:

Boris Johnson (Chairman)
Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman), Jennette Arnold, Reshard Auladin, John Biggs, Faith Boardman, Christopher Boothman, Victoria Borwick, Valerie Brasse, Cindy Butts, James Cleverly, Dee Doocey, Toby Harris, Kirsten Hearn, Jenny Jones, Clive Lawton, Joanne McCartney, Caroline Pidgeon, Graham Speed and Richard Tracey.

MPA Officers: Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive), Annabel Adams (Treasurer), Jane Harwood (Assistant Chief Executive) and Nick Baker (Head of Committee Services).

MPS Officers: Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner), Anne McMeel (Director of Resources) and John Yates (Assistant Commissioner).

Boris Johnson (Chairman): If everybody can go around and identify themselves that would be good. Catherine [Crawford], starting with you.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): Catherine Crawford.

Jane Harwood (Assistant Chief Executive): Jane Harwood.

Annabel Adams (Treasurer): Annabel Adams.

Toby Harris (AM): Toby Harris.

Reshard Auladin (AM): Reshard Auladin.

Cindy Butts (AM): Cindy Butts.

Richard Tracey (AM): Richard Tracey.

Victoria Borwick (AM): Victoria Borwick.

Clive Lawton (AM): Clive Lawton.

Graham Speed (AM): Graham Speed.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Valerie Brasse.

Christopher Boothman (AM): Christopher Boothman.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Caroline Pidgeon.

Dee Doocey (AM): Dee Doocey.

Jenny Jones (AM): Jenny Jones.

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Kirsten Hearn.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Joanne McCartney.

Faith Boardman (AM): Faith Boardman.

Anne McMeel (Director of Resources): Anne McMeel.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): John Yates.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Paul Stephenson.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Kit Malthouse.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Boris Johnson. Good morning everybody. It is a very brief period, it seems to me, since we last met but a joy, of course, to renew our proceedings.

In the interim Members will know that Tim Godwin has been appointed Deputy Commissioner and I am sure the Metropolitan Police Authority would want to congratulate him after a very long drawn out appointment. He has gone away on holiday. Well done him. Also I would like to congratulate Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick who has been promoted to become the first Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Female.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Sorry - thank you - first female Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, Cressida Dick. She takes charge of the Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD). I am sure we would all want to congratulate her. On behalf of all Members I would like to thank Ken Hunt who was Treasurer of the Metropolitan Police Authority for more than three years and retired at the end of last month, for his loyal commitment to the MPA and his dedicated professional support throughout his service. Thank you.

Are there any apologies for absence?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): Steve O'Connell.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Steve [O'Connell], thank you. Members wishing to make declarations of interest can do so now.

Authority Members: None.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. You have the minutes before you, Members of the MPA. Are you satisfied with the minutes of the last meeting? Joanne [McCartney]?

Joanne McCartney (AM): Chairman, these are not the minutes of the last meeting but I have to raise this now. The minutes of the February meeting said that we were going to have a report back from the Chief Executive about the implications for MPA Members arising from the Standards Board investigation. I have asked twice for that now and that has not yet appeared on the agenda, so could I have an assurance today that it will be on the next agenda?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): Yes, Chairman. As Members know this meeting was postponed and then put back on with a much attenuated agenda. Work is still on hand on that - it has proved complicated because we do have to work with colleagues on the Greater London Authority (GLA), but I can guarantee there will be a report in September.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good, thank you. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): We were supposed to be getting a briefing note on the sexual offences on buses and I was just wondering when we would expect more information on that that was promised in the minutes of the last meeting.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I do remember that Caroline [Pidgeon], yes.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I will get them straightaway.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): OK, thank you very much.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much. Yes, that would be interesting because there were some interesting data there. Thank you. Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): It is a matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting. I am still waiting, as other Members are, for information that was promised at the last meeting about the pan-London gang body that the Vice-Chairman is chairing. I am still waiting information for that. I do remember being invited by the Vice-Chairman to become involved and I have not heard anything.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Right. Kit [Malthouse], anything you want to say?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Well, you will in due course. As we said the meeting was not going to happen and then it got reinstated for a specific reason that Members wanted it. So, we were aiming for the next meeting to bring you something, which was then going to be September.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): You will be involved, Jennette [Arnold]. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): I do think it is a mistake to cancel meetings. The assumption that there is going to be nothing that we need to talk about --

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We are having a meeting now.

Jenny Jones (AM): Yes. I am just saying let us not cancel any more, please.

John Biggs (AM): No thanks to you!

Jenny Jones (AM): I have got two things to talk about. One is the report into Sir Ian Blair [former Commissioner 2005-2008] and all that. Can I bring that up under urgent business? We have not got a "Questions to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman" on this agenda; that is all. So, can I bring that up under urgent business?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I do not see why you should not.

Jenny Jones (AM): The other subject I wanted to bring up was the stuff on the radio this morning as I was making my porridge about Catherine Crawford. I just want to say from a personal point of view I think the charges have to be complete rubbish and I just hope our attitude will be, "We'll see you in court".

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I am sure that will be welcomed by the Chief Executive. Any other points or matters arising?

Authority Members: None.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good. Can I possibly ask the Commissioner to make his report?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Thank you, Chairman.

The first thing I would like to refer to is it gives me great pleasure to introduce, on my right over here, Sergeant Stephen Hayter, Constables Barry Leban, Richard Cousins and Michael Carroll, who in the last week too have just won the National Police Bravery Award. It was a fantastic event. They work on the Territorial Support Group (TSG). I think it was felt by the Chairman and you, Catherine Crawford, that it would be useful if we could just show the reconstruction that was shown at the National Police Bravery Awards as to what these guys really got up to - a fantastic job.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): That is why the screens need to be up.

[Video shown]

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Just while the Chairman is congratulating. I would just say that we are incredibly proud of what they did and what they are here for today is for you to see what police officers are doing for all the communities and that was nothing to do with judging the quality of the acting. So, the person who fell down there - had you guys done it I am sure you would have done it with greater aplomb than the actors would have done.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you for coming this morning.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Our thanks to the Members of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Before I get into the report properly I think it is right that I recognise - as everybody will realise - we have just passed the fourth anniversary of the death of our tragic mistake around Jean Charles de Menezes. I think it is right that I recognise that, but also, in doing that, report that I along with a number of other people, including the Mayor in this Mayoral capacity, attended a very moving ceremony in Hyde Park as a memorial to the victims. It seems all the worse somehow that then shortly after that there was graffiti done to that memorial. I am sure everybody would join me in saying just what an appalling act that is when we have got a memorial to 52 victims who have been murdered and then shortly after it has been launched, and His Royal Highness Prince of Wales was there, then we end up with having some graffiti on that memorial. It is just a shocking event and I thought I would bring it to your attention. The Parks Police are investigating it, but it is just something to be deplored.

I will now go onto performance. You have the report in front of you, but I can add to that with the latest figures I have got and various things going on. TKAP, which is the Tackling Knives Action Programme - The Government programme - as far as I am concerned largely based on and drawing from what we, the Metropolitan Police Service, with the MPA were doing. Of course, we prioritised knives and youth crime as a priority going back some time at this Authority, developed a lot of activities and I think, quite rightly, The Government picked up on it and found there was more to be done across a number of major cities across the country. Performance was reported in various ways yesterday and I have got to say the way the performance was being reported, I felt, was a bit alarming for us because it was quite negative when in actual fact whilst I always say, "Use the figures with caution; there's still far too many," I think it was misrepresenting the case for London because the reality is youth violence is down, we know that youth homicides are down and actually the way it was being reported did not quite come across that way in the first place. I know that officers from the Metropolitan Police Service and I think from the Authority contacted various media outlets and I do think there was a change in stance during the day. So, I am grateful for people who did that because

actually we should recognise whilst there is far too much youth crime still, far too much knife crime, we have had a significant impact here in London.

Just touching on knife crime right the way across the board including adults; the totality of knife crime and looking at performance in this financial year, our performance year, April to the end of June, total knife crime is more or less flat-lining, marginally up by 18 offences but more or less flat-lining. So, in other words we are not seeing that continued reduction across the board, but youth violence continues to go down since April, that is down by 3%; youth knife crime homicide is again down since April, there have been seven youth knife crime homicides and that is down by 3 on the same period of last year. Again, I still say seven too many. Serious youth violence down by 8%.

Whilst I am not going to quote and stats from this because I think this is the one thing we should not do is rely on stats that have not yet been proven or tested. Early indications of indicative figures coming out of the Health Service regarding casualty departments across London, I would simply say that early indications of that have yet to be verified by the Health Service so it is wrong for me to go into any detail seem to be supporting the fact that youth violence is down quite significantly. At the moment that seems to support that. So, I think that is continuing good news but still too much and we need to keep on top of it.

I think I mentioned at the last Authority gun crime continues to concern me here in London and gun crime on the performance year is up. Gun crime is up across the board but in particular our Trident gun crime is up and that is an issue of real concern to us and I will come back to the issues we have got to do around that.

Serious violence year-to-date and of course we have had this complete confusion over statistics. The reality is we reduced most serious violence with assaults with injury, which is the best indicator for us, in the last performance year, but in this performance year it is up slightly at 3.2%. So, we put that increase along with the flat-lining in overall knife crime along with an increase in gun crime and I think that is something of concern.

We have put together an umbrella operation called Operation Verano. It is a cross-Metropolitan Police Service operation designed to reduce on-street violence, stabbings, shootings and gang violence. In other words bringing together a lot of our current operations and added to it. It went live on 6 July and it will continue to the end of September. Obviously we are concerned about the summer months, light evenings and people out there on the streets. Emphasis will be on gaining intelligence, analysis and deploying the range of activities, some of which are known to you but actually deploying them in a coordinated effect, our Operation Neons, which is overt armed response to intelligence arising out of various things and using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and our Blunt 2 task force.

Actually what we are now doing on town centre patrols, and I have reported at this Authority in recent meetings the increase of town centre patrolling. I can tell you now since we started this on increased town centre patrols to a combination of moving

towards a greater reliance on single patrolling, greater use of the Special Constabulary and actually trying to eek out all our resources, we have put on the streets of London an extra 17,000 8-hour patrols since we started this. I think this is really important for our town centres and it is part and parcel of our crackdown on violence. We are doing other covert deployments to ensure that we actually do everything we can to reduce what is a slight increase at the moment, but gun crime does concern me.

Homicide is down by a significant amount if we compare this period of the financial year with the same period last year. That is down by 19 offences from 44 to 25. I throw this in not because I am trying to prove anything here but actually we have discussed before the contribution of domestic violence to homicide in London and what is its contribution, and the work that has been previously done by the Metropolitan Police Service going back over years to actually up its game on domestic violence and how that can have an effect on homicide.

Just for your information, last year one in six homicides we think related to a domestic violence type of cause. So, that is one in six; it is still a significant number but actually not the number that I will be used to talking about in other places historically. That is relatively flat-lining at this moment in time but it is interesting that our domestic violence detection/arrest rate is second only to our sanction detection rate for homicide. It is actually at 72.2% which is a significant increase here in London to what it was a number of years ago. I just think it is an interesting fact to keep in mind how domestic violence can relate to the most extreme violence of homicide and why we should keep on the case anyway.

Burglary I have mentioned before that the upward trend retains. I think again we are seeing a continuing rise in burglary and that is a cause for concern. An activity has been targeted against prolific cross-border burglary offenders. On Tuesday, one such operation: we saw 30 people arrested in south London in a coordinated operation targeting individuals suspected in what are now called car burglaries. This started as a result in intelligence developed by the Stolen Vehicle Unit. Criminal networks suspected of commissioning theft of cars ranging from Austin Martins and Mercedes, through to more standard family cars. A very successful operation. Actually there is a number of those type of offences we are targeting at this moment in time - live operations - cross-border with other forces; people targeting houses for the theft of cars and that is part and parcel of the rise in burglary at this moment in time.

Since we last met, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) have completed part one of the review that I commissioned into G20. As I have said before it is not about the investigation of individual pieces of imagery - which I said before is disturbing, needs to be fully investigated, which is still being undertaken by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) - but as you remember I commissioned this from HMIC around the concerns being expressed around our tactics, in particular what we call our containment. The report contained 12 recommendations - I am sure you are aware of that - and actually I think makes some very sensible recommendations. I know people might disagree about containment, but if we are going to use this tactic and we think it is a

tactic that we rely on in this moment in time in certain extremists, there are ways we can do it better and I think that is something to be welcomed.

I am rather anticipating that while I know we have agreed to give a report to COP, I think, in October, but also I am anticipating Denis' [Denis O'Connor, Chief Inspector of Constabulary] report is going to be discussed in some detail by your new committee. I am guessing that is why you will want to go into detail around that report.

Dee [Doocey], I have been told that there are a couple of questions you want to ask and I wonder if I can just pick them up in my report. I have been told that you wanted to raise the questions about: "Is there a deliberate policy to cut down police officers and replace them with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in town centre patrolling?"

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes, that is why I gave you advance notice so that perhaps you could cover them here.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Very grateful. The short answer is no. There is no deliberate policy and we are not doing that. In fact Westminster Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) is currently actually over-strength in police numbers. A wide range of activities BOCU carries out to improve visibility. The current town centre team there, which is part of the additional patrols we have been talking about, they are actually leading the way in the Metropolitan Police Service - and those are town centre teams. That is an extra ten patrols a day which is more than other boroughs and actually is setting the model for the boroughs and setting the challenge for the boroughs. We have got an enhanced number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) in the centre who perform night duty in places like Soho. So, there is no policy of replacing police officers with PCSOs.

What I would say about PCSOs is that we are applying the default position of single patrolling to PCSOs just like constables. Actually, that may well lead to people thinking they are seeing an additional number of PCSOs because they are actually patrolling separately. Not always because we do do certain things where we do deploy together. So, you should see more patrols including PCSOs but there is no reduction in cops there at all.

You also asked: "Is there a policy to fast-track female and black and minority ethnic (BME) recruits?" Right, I think we have discussed long at this Authority and I suspect it will be an outcome from the race and faith in crime as well where we still need to improve our position in terms of the MPS trying to look like London reflecting London. We have made notable progress but there is more progress to be made there. We do not have a policy of fast-tracking. Actually everybody goes through the same process irrespective of gender and ethnicity. However, where we do have a policy is where someone might actually come out in line with the queue is where there are particular skills we are looking for, which we have discussed here before, particularly language skills but there is no policy to fast-track. Actually, where there are particular skills we are looking that would be a reason to go out of line in the queue, but also we do know

that we should be recruiting more females and more people from BME. Actually where we are looking to do that is through some rather successful recruitment campaigns that have won awards in recent years. I hope that answers most of it. I have done my best, Dee [Doocey].

Dee Doocey (AM): Sorry, through you Chair, would it be all right just to come back very quickly?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Have you come to the end of your report, Commissioner?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): No, there were two other things I was going to mention.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Could perhaps the Commissioner finish his report and then we will have a general series of questions? Thank you.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): It is right that I mention the recently announced reduction in the UK threat level on terrorism. That has been, as you know, downgraded from severe to substantial. Actually what it means is in terms of definition there is still a strong possibility that a no-warning terrorist attack could happen in London or elsewhere in the United Kingdom. It is part of a body separate from us that we are part of but it is actually independently chaired from us that considers that threat level. We continue to review our contingency planning and continue to target our operations in the way that we should be targeting the operational resources that we have. It is right that I raise that fact. Also we have spoken before about the change in how we are using Section 44 stops under terrorist legislation. That is now going - I think I am right in saying, John [Yates] - pan-London.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Pan-London, yes, last week.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): The last thing I think I ought to mention as everybody else is talking about it and that is swine flu as it affects the Metropolitan Police Service. As of Wednesday, 22 July there have been 272 reported cases of suspected or confirmed pandemic flu amongst police officers and staff in the Metropolitan Police Service. To put that in perspective the current absence level is somewhere in the region of 220 officers and members of staff which represents approximately 0.5% of the workforce. Average time that staff are away from work at this moment in time as a result of this particular ailment is six days per person. As you would expect we have a Gold Group sitting considering how this might pan out for us as an organisation. That is part of our general Gold Group that sits and considers the business continuity. So, a lot of the work we have been doing about business continuity over recent years is actually extremely useful and jacks in to deal with something like this which may get to much more significant proportions. It is not for me to comment on - I am not medically qualified - but if it does we feel we have the processes and structures in place to deal with that to the best effect that we can deal with it.

I was going to finish on that, Chairman.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much, Sir Paul [Stephenson]. I think all Members of the MPA will want to congratulate the police on what they are doing, particularly on knife crime and on youth crime where; we really are seeing some great progress there though obviously it is a very, very challenging environment, but I do think efforts are paying off. I think it is also worth noting - I think this fact is not out there in the public domain - that there are now 33,000 police officers in London - the highest number ever recorded and the highest number of female and BME officers. So, I think that is a piece of news that ought to be out there with the public. I do think what the Commissioner has done with single-officer patrols and now, we gather, with single-PCSO patrols is very remarkable and I do hope it pays dividends.

Are there any questions? Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): I just thought it was important that the Commissioner's second question - the first answer was fine; thank you very much - was something that was put to me on a radio interview and was then followed up by listeners ringing in. That was the suggestion which I refuted that unless you are "visibly ethnic, a woman, disabled there is no point applying to join the police force" because the only people that the police force are fast-tracking, and by inference the only people that are allowed to join, are people from disadvantaged communities. It was that that I wanted you to nail in public.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Right, it would be counterintuitive to the figures that are in the report. We have a target set by this Authority to achieve 20% in-year recruiting of new police recruits from BME communities. We have currently failed to hit that target. I think we are just less than 16%, so if we are less than 16% for BME it is counterintuitive. I can understand people getting that impression but actually the figures would be a lie. We need to improve our recruitment figures. Now, what I have to say is that we are still confident we will hit the 20% target. That is very much about not just holding back at the moment the movement of PCSOs into constables so we do not end up taking away too many people away from Safer Neighbourhood Teams. So, that is the reason we are not hitting the target but we will that target. It is counterintuitive to the idea that we are only recruiting from those particular backgrounds.

Dee Doocey (AM): So, just to be absolutely clear, there is not Metropolitan Police Service policy that says, "We are not recruiting people with white skin into the police"?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): No.

Dee Doocey (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Joanne [McCartney], you wanted to come in.

Joanne McCartney (AM): My question is relating to the Baby P and information that the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) have stated that they have in their recent

news reports. It refers to the HMIC report into the circumstances surrounding Baby P that members of the sub-committee were told it was a confidential report and it has now been released under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Can I firstly just ask whether that is now then a document that is in the public domain and it is one that we in the Authority treat as confidential in the case that we cannot talk about it or discuss it?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Joanne [McCartney], that is the HMIC report. I cannot tell you whether it is or it is not, but a decision on that I do not think would be mine. It would be a decision for the HMIC anyway, so I honestly do not know Joanne [McCartney]. I can find out.

Joanne McCartney (AM): I wonder if we could ask that to be clarified because we may be asked for comments and if we cannot talk about then it seems like we may be hiding something.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): It will be for the HMIC to say but I will find out and let you know.

Joanne McCartney (AM): OK. My second question arising out of that is the BBC report was suggesting that because the HMIC report was not available to the second Safeguarding Children's Board review, that somehow something was missed out of that review - either police failings or not failings were missed out and not given. Can I just ask to have some clarity, perhaps not now but in writing, that that review did have all the information that was contained in that HMIC report so we can all be confident that that review had full disclosure by the police? I think it is an important point.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): I can certainly undertake to find out the answers to Joanne's [McCartney] questions and I will circulate a note to all Members on those points.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Thank you, because those were certainly the implications in the news report. I think they need to be clarified.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Sorry, which review are you referring to?

Joanne McCartney (AM): The second Safeguarding Children's Board review.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I think HMIC was part of the team.

Joanne McCartney (AM): It was part of it but the BBC report indicated that because the HMIC report itself had been confidential it had not been given in some respect. I just want to make sure, as a Member of this Authority, that that review had full disclosure from the police about everything.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): They looked at all the papers that were relevant, yes.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Yes.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): The review was by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Joanne McCartney (AM): Exactly, but I think that needs to be clarified.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): So, we will have to write to them to find out.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): Sorry, can I just make the point because it would be led by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and HMIC were a full player in that second serious case review.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Yes.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Just if it helps, I would be astonished if it was the case, but I will clarify it.

Joanne McCartney (AM): That was the implication from the report. I just think we need to have it clarified.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): We can certainly confirm and circulate a mail to that.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): We will write to them and find out for you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK. Are you happy on that, Joanne [McCartney]?

Joanne McCartney (AM): Yes. That is fine, thank you.

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

Jenny Jones (AM): Oh, thank you. I wanted to ask about the phone tapping. I do not know if anybody else has got that as a topic they want to bring up. I did in fact give the Commissioner some questions in advance, so I do not know if you want, Mr Yates, to answer those. It did look a bit tactical slick for the Metropolitan Police Service to be so quick and efficient with the --

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): You cannot win.

Jenny Jones (AM): Let me rephrase that. Mr Yates, why did you only talk about Goodman's [Clive Goodman, *News of The World* reporter] activities when you made the media presentation?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Well, I did not actually, Jenny [Jones]. What the Commissioner asked me to do whenever it was - two weeks last Thursday - was to establish the facts around that case, the Goodman and Mulcaire [Glenn Mulcaire, private investigator] case, and he also asked me to consider whether there are any other issues rising out of *The Guardian* articles. In doing that I adopt the number of principles around the scale, the scope of the original inquiry, the amount of disclosure, the approach adopted by the prosecution team and a number of other areas.

What I concluded, and I concluded pretty quickly, was that *The Guardian* story and the Nick Davies [journalist] stories were actually a conflation of two old stories. One was an Information Commission's report, Operation Motorman(?), and one was in relation to the inquiry that we carried out against Goodman and Mulcaire. Now, those two stories were conflated by a civil action where there was some disclosure of previously unused material in the Goodman and Mulcaire case. So, they are going back three or four years. I concluded pretty quickly that there was absolutely nothing new in those allegations and that is the point I came to.

The Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) [Keir Starmer] also concluded similarly about three days later. He, however, clarified a particular point regarding the email around the person, Neville, which he had not personally seen as part of his review, but which had been seen by the prosecution team and prosecution counsel as part of the original case and would have been closely considered because the email referred to Gordon Taylor [Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, PFA] who was part of the original charge and indictment against Goodman and Mulcaire. So, it had been seen; they considered there was nothing relevant in that; they considered there was nothing evidentially we could take further forward; we consider that as well and that is the position we are currently at. So, the DPP is currently clarifying himself personally as opposed what the CPS and prosecution counsel saw prior to that and I expect them to make some statement in the next few days.

Jenny Jones (AM): So, you felt there was no criminal activity on all these people who were targets?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): In terms of the wider victims? By the way that is the point; that is the position we have. The law is incredibly complex around phone intercept. It is also from a technological perspective incredibly difficult to prove. The analogy is you do not commit the offence of phone tapping if you listen to a voicemail that you the victim have already opened. It is like the open letter and the closed letter. You commit an offence of interference with mail if you open someone's letter, you do not do it if you actually read the letter after you have opened it, so from a technological perspective, very, very difficult to prove. That is why they narrowed the case down with the advice of leading counsel, David Perry Queen's Counsel (QC), to these very few

cases where it can actually be proved from a technological perspective as opposed to have the prospect of victims voicemails on very, very private matters being read out in court. So, that is the approach the prosecution adopted back in 2005.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. I am just going to ask whether there are any other questions about this from other. OK, we are going to have a general discussion about this. Come on then, Jenny [Jones].

Jenny Jones (AM): News International said a week or two ago that they know all the evidence you are holding. Now, that seems a bit odd because they are a suspect in the case. That was in the report in the newspaper. Is that just complete garbage?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): No. They would have had, presumably as an interested party in the civil action, access, I suspect, to the information that we disclosed to Gordon Taylor in pursuant of that action, but I cannot speak for News International but certainly not from our perspective.

Jenny Jones (AM): There were also - not quite allegations - insinuations that police officers had taken money either to give information or to stop exploring criminal activities. Are you looking into that?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Again, I think that refers to a very, very old story back in 2003 when Rebekah Wade [Editor, *The Sun*; Chief Executive Elect News International], when she was then editor of a national newspaper, where she disclosed to a select committee in 2003 that they had paid money for stories to police officers. So, that was six or seven years ago. Does that ever happen? Yes, of course it does happen on occasion and there have been instances in the past when it has happened and we have investigated it very thoroughly, but are we looking at it at the moment? No, we are not.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good, thank you. Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes, I have just two questions. Could you let us know if the list of victims includes any Metropolitan Police Service officers, past or present, and any MPA officers or Members, past or present? What is the Metropolitan Police Service's policy towards police officers receiving payments from the media in return for information?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): On the first point, this is personal information around victims and we will be telling those people who we deem to have been either subject of phone hacking, which they have already been told, and then we are widening it out in the widest possible sense in terms of a possibility. That is clearly a matter between us and the victim and I would not be disclosing that in a public forum. On the second point, clearly taking payments is corruption and will be dealt with in the way that you normally investigate such matters, so taken very, very seriously.

Dee Doocey (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good. Any other questions on this? Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): I suppose the issue of concern for me at the time, and I was rather surprised by the statement you first made and then, of course, what you fed back to the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee, was denying straightaway or assuring us, as the MPA, straightaway that there was no other journalist in the fray or, if there was, there was not the evidence to prosecute at the time. I was surprised that statement was not made at day one.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Well, I think the story developed very quickly over a number of days post my statement, so I would not have known then what I did know in the future, as it were. I have made it quite clear in my statement on that Thursday that these were private investigators and journalists. They are bound to have in the material we seized notes, addendums, memos, whatever, around contact with other journalists. So, that would be absolutely accepted as part and parcel of their daily trade. What we were interested in was phone hacking and phone hacking alone.

Valerie Brasse (AM): I think that was the point, it was actually satisfying the MPA as soon as you could that there was no story around the speculation as to why some evidence may not have come forward - they may have been police involved; there may have been corruption - and we just did not have that. It did go to the Department of Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): If I could just say? Actually they asked and so it should. Either we are too slick and too quick or now on another part we are too slow. We have got to do things in the right order where we have the information and it is right to say something publicly we say it. Where it is not right to say something publicly because we cannot confirm the information then we will be foolish to do it. It is damned if you do and damned if you do not, Valerie [Brasse].

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Absolutely. Right, I am going to go to Caroline [Pidgeon], then Victoria [Borwick], then Clive [Lawton], then Dick [Tracey] and then James [Cleverly]. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Mine was just very quickly on the town centres initiative. In your report - it is very good and I have to say I have noticed more and more when I am out and about there are more patrols going on - I am just wondering what the make up of those patrols is in terms of police officers, PCSOs and Specials.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I could not give you a breakdown but it is all of them. We are, as you know, very ambitious around the Special Constabulary. I think we are now at a record high - I think it is in the report somewhere - of about 2,600 Specials. We have real ambitions to increase that, as you know, by the Olympics to 10,000 and we want to ensure that those people who are volunteering are working, where we can, on the Friday and Saturday nights in the town centres where we know people need them. So, we are seeing a significant increase in Specials, we are seeing more cops and we are seeing

more PCSOs doing more patrols through single crewing and indeed through actually doing other things of trying to get police officers out on the beat rather than be in police stations. I could not give you a breakdown of how many of which. I just could not give you that this moment in time.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): OK.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Victoria [Borwick]?

Victoria Borwick (AM): I am sure I had not indicated. Sorry, Chairman.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I am so sorry. Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): I am sorry, I want to just return briefly to the matter concerning phone tapping and so forth and then to the other question I wanted to ask. Just to clarify in this matter of what would clearly be corruption, are you saying that no police officers have sold information or access to information or no police officers have been identified as selling access to information or no police officers have been prosecuted for selling access to information? It is not clear to me where we are up to.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Several police officers, past and present, either ex or current, have over the past number of years been prosecuted for selling information like off the PNC and the like.

Clive Lawton (AM): In this particular flurry?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Nothing to suggest that is the case at all in this investigation.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Could I just add something there, Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): Yes.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): If there was we would investigate it robustly because it is straightforward criminal activity.

Clive Lawton (AM): Yes. No, I understand that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Could I just ask a question? Forgive me but do I understand that some officers have been prosecuted successfully for selling information and still remain officers?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): That is unlikely.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): No. That is not possible, is it?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): It is possible depending on the level of offending. It will be dealt with in a proportionate way in terms of what they have done.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Right.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): As far as I am concerned it is straightforward corruption and ought to be dealt with in that way. It is just something that cannot be tolerated.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Right, I do not know how many Members of the MPA I speak for but I would have thought that if an officer is successfully prosecuted for selling information then it would be very difficult for him to remain an officer.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): The default position would be to sack him.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): The same would apply to Members of the Metropolitan Police Authority too.

Jenny Jones (AM): You would not have done that as a journalist, would you?

Boris Johnson (Chairman): No.

John Biggs (AM): Well obviously, Chairman, the proper disciplinary process needs to follow its course. So, for a Police Authority to issue a blanket edict that anybody who did anything would therefore be sanctioned in a particular way would not be a proper exercise of our authority.

Clive Lawton (AM): Chairman, I would be reluctant to get over righteous on this. I could imagine a very low-scale exchange of car registration numbers if somebody buys you a pint which might more fall under disciplinary territory than criminal justice - I do not know - but I would be very reluctant to seek to make some absolute statement. I think each case must be judged.

Reshard Auladin (AM): It is a sackable offence. If you sell police information, from the Professional Standards point of view --

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I think, Reshard [Auladin], before we go into a long session discussion can I ask the Commissioner to reply?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I think we are in danger of going off down a side road here.

Reshard Auladin (AM): Absolutely.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): The reality is that selling information - and John [Yates] has already mentioned - it is something that has occurred in the Police Service, nationally and in the Metropolitan Police Service, throughout the history of the Police Service, it is called corruption. If people sell information off the Police National Computer for instance there is all likelihood they may all go to prison, let alone face discipline.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I think it is absolutely right.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): John [Biggs] is absolutely right, if I may say so, you cannot do a blanket authority on discipline matters because you will end up abusing due process. The reality is these things are dealt with extraordinarily seriously.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): OK, good.

Reshard Auladin (AM): Can I just quickly say? The MPA on a number of occasions have applied for forfeiture of their pensions too after they have served their prison sentences and we are very keen to do that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): Good. OK, I am under righteous - not for the first time. In your report in the covering summary you say that we are up to almost 33,000 and then in the actual text you say we are over 33,000 police officers, so those figures are slightly discrepant but I do not think that is critical.

I want to pick up something that Boris [Johnson] said in his comments on your report when you applauded, rightly, the rise in proportions of ethnic minority police officers and to come back to something that I have been asking for quite a while and still do not seem to have any information on. It is specifically about black, if you like, male police recruits. This figure seems to get continuously subsumed into the general figure of BME and I am reminded that to the best of my knowledge anyway the first reasons for being concerned about BME recruits and that is not to say there are not other very good reasons to reflect the general population and so on and so forth, the first reasons for concern were about under representation of black folk in the Metropolitan Police Service. My very crude, superficial impressions from passing out parades, which I have mentioned before, is that there are still not many black folk entering the Metropolitan Police Service. The statistics given to me for one passing out parade seem to confirm that - and you cannot make a judgment on a single event. I would very much like to ask for specific reference to black recruits in proportion to the census proportion of black population in London.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I am quite happy to find out what detail we have got and provide that.

Clive Lawton (AM): OK, thank you.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I think we have got to be just a little bit careful, Clive [Lawton] - I understand what you are saying - because we have got to make the point that when we are facing - and we continue to face - a terrorist threat, one of our most challenged communities come from Muslim communities who actually feel challenged by what we are doing and some other things. Actually we want to make progress across a whole range of ethnic minorities and particularly including southeast Asian, Muslim and non-Muslim communities from that area.

Clive Lawton (AM): I do understand that, and that point has been made before and I certainly do not want people to take their attention off that, but I think this is a territory which has been longstanding and I am not sure that it has been fully resolved. I am not saying it has not been addressed.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): It clearly has not been fully explained to you so we will do it.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): I think it could be counterproductive personally.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Dick [Tracey]?

Richard Tracey (AM): Thank you, Chairman. I am going to change subjects. Can I ask the Commissioner if you can give us some more details about the measures you are taking to deal with drink-fuelled violence at various hotspots? I think apart from the West End various in south London and some in north and east London. What is actually being done? Also, wouldn't it be a good idea to start lobbying The Government to amend the legislation to stop the amount of late drinking which is clearly what is fuelling a lot of this violence?

The other thing is that apparently the Home Office - I think it was yesterday - announced £5 million to tackle knives. Is some of that coming to you or not?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): On your second point, under the Tackling Knives Action Plan - whatever it is called anyway - The Government campaign on this that reflects what we were already doing, they gave us some money last year and we are going to get some money this year. I cannot remember precisely how much but I think it is in two tranches and I had a conversation with somebody yesterday who asked exactly the same question, how much of this is coming our way, and I think it is something like £600,000-plus, in that region - certainly less than £1 million.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Across seven centres so it is peanuts.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): That does not adequately reflect the proportion that London makes up of the UK population or indeed of the problem that London constitutes in knife crime.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Anything the Authority case wants to make to say that we should get more money for the Metropolitan Police Service is welcomed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): I think we should write to the Home Office making that point.

Richard Tracey (AM): Absolutely. Could you deal with the drink-fuelled violence as well and what measures might be taken by the Metropolitan Police Service and indeed by The Government?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I think I have been referring to that, Richard [Tracey], in so much as we are taking, quite rightly, much more seriously the issue of town centres because as went to Safer Neighbourhoods there was a great danger we forgot this thing called town centres. We have now identified our town centres - that seemed rather bizarre, we always knew where they were - as issues and particularly you will remember I was talking about business crimes in small businesses in town centres on the high street actually suffering from exactly what you are talking about. So, I think what we doing in already this year putting out 17,000 extra foot patrols in town centres is designed to actually address precisely that. What I was just talking about about Operation Verano dealing with all forms of violence is designed to tackle precisely that. As for Government policy, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Metropolitan Police Service have submitted their views on licensing on a number of occasions previously and we will continue to put our views forward on that.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you very much. James [Cleverly]?

James Cleverly (AM): Thank you, Chairman. This is a bit of a fastball so I do not really expect you to have this information at your fingertips but seeing as the Resilience Gold Group is active at the moment perhaps it is something that could be fed in. First of all I would like to congratulate Tony Dawson and his team in the Bexley BOCU in their response to the major power outage that went across that borough and the flexibility that they showed and the partnership working that they showed in making sure that core services continued being delivered. One of the things that did come out of that however was that the emergency generator that was used to power up the station was omitting a foul stench that made parts of the building unusable for a period of time. I just wanted to feed into that Resilience Gold Group about the maintenance programme for emergency generators just to ensure that when we do flick the switch that the lights do actually come on.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): James [Cleverly], you are right, I do not have that detailed information at my fingertips. What I can assure you is that is a central part of what we have being doing for a number of years on business continuity. Business continuity became the popular thing to do if you remember around the Millennium when we all thought the world was going to come to an end, but actually out of that came some huge learning and actually the fact that we do need to address these issues, so we do do a lot of work around testing generators, etc, to make sure they can and do fire up when they

are supposed to fire up. I will get you some more information on that, foul smells and such like.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): I strongly support the principle of recruiting more Special Constables, and I imagine we all do, but I was interested behind that headline about the significant diversions between the numbers recorded and those who are actively engaged in Special Constable activities. So, we could have a sunny morning press release where we say we have got 92,000 of them but in reality we only find that 1,000 of them are on active patrol. Can you tell us something about how you are ensuring that we get the balance right in the promotion and the continued recording of Special Constables whether they are active or not?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Absolutely right, John [Biggs]. It is part of our new recruitment campaign to actually ensure we understand who are active, who are putting patrol hours out there and who are not, and where people are not deselecting them and actually removing people who are not active. I always want to thank and reward people who have volunteered to give up their time but where we have given it a lot of training and they are not using that training, clearly we have got to take action about it. I can provide you with more details but we have been very active in actually reducing the number of non-patrollers so that when we are talking about increase, we are talking about active people. We do monitor those figures though.

John Biggs (AM): So, would I be a million miles adrift if I was to suggest that something like 10% or less of those recorded are actually actively engaged as Special Constables?

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): No.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I do not know how many million miles you are adrift. I do not think it is 10% at all but I will find you the figures.

John Biggs (AM): OK, thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good, thank you. Joanne [McCartney], on this point?

Joanne McCartney (AM): It is. It is about the motivation and the training of Specials because I think it does vary. I am just wondering what we are doing to ensure that they do stay motivated and part of that is believing that they are part of the policing family. Secondly, do we keep statistics on the retention of Specials, because if we do I would like those at some further date?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I am sure we do keep those statistics and I will let you have those statistics. I think your first point is absolutely right. The history of the Special Constabulary through the Police Service and indeed in the Metropolitan Police

Service is patchy. The worst thing about this is the regular Police Service has not always appreciated people voluntarily giving up their own time. The thing that de-motivates Specials the most is when they turn up for duty they are not greeted, they are not briefed and they are not deployed in a way that makes good use of their time and their volunteering capacity. That is something that we making sure we address across the Metropolitan Police Service.

I think the situation in most places in the Metropolitan Police Service now is they are welcomed and they are well used, but part and parcel of what we are putting out, and part and parcel of my campaign under the five Ps on presence is very much about every borough commander to prove that you are valuing your Specials actively deploying them and deploying them in the places where they are going to make the most effect. That is the way to keep the morale of the Special Constabulary up, so it is a big part of what they are doing because there is no point spending money that we are getting some aid from Government on the Olympic programme to actually recruit sergeants to assist with this special recruitment and deployment and then wasting it by having people walking away because they are not valued. I do not think that is the case in most of the Metropolitan Police Service but we have got to be very careful about it. It is the history in parts of the Police Service of not valuing people who are not regular officers.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Commissioner. I am going to go to Toby [Harris], then Cindy [Butts], then Valerie [Brasse], then Dee [Doocey], then Jennette [Arnold] and then I am going to wrap it up. Toby [Harris]?

Toby Harris (AM): OK, can I just make one quick point on Specials which I was not going to make but as everybody else have been talking about them? The Metropolitan Police Service, I think, has a number of Specials who are in themselves specialists, so they do not do normal special constabularing duties. I think it would be quite interesting to learn a little bit more about the range of those activities. I think the Territorial Army (TA) also does some similar arrangements where using people's particular skills, so they do not go out and patrol but they support particular functions, I think are valuable at some point from the appropriate board to hear more about that.

My specific point was about the HMIC report on the G20 protest and not about the substance of it in respect of the protest itself but about what I think was an extremely interesting feature of that report in the extent to which it used survey data to assess the extent to which the Metropolitan Police Service was operating with consent in this case with respect of protest. I would be interested in both the Commissioner's comments on that but also, either now or at a future stage, to hear a bit more about what the Metropolitan Police Service spends a lot of money on surveying public opinion, partly to measure satisfaction but also partly to inform the priorities setting, but to what extent we are in a position to use that to assess the extent to which we have consent, or the Metropolitan Police Service has consent, for the policies that it follows.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Very quickly, your first point, happy to bring some information on that and you are absolutely right the smart use of Specials using the

skills they have. I know we have got at least one Special, if not more, in the arts and antiques business because he comes from that background. I am not going to go any further on that but it is actually very, very useful. It brings useful knowledge. We have got them right the way across; we have got them in Specialist Operations 15 (SO15) now I think as well. People who bring some skills. So, I will bring that information there.

We always say we welcome the report. Actually I do welcome Dennis' report because I think it adds significance to the debate and it assists. I think it is quite innovative what he has done in going out there and doing a survey. We have obviously got to be careful about how we use survey data and it can be used and misused on occasions. You are right, we do spend a significant amount on lots of surveys. Could we do something imaginative around that on our surveys? Yes, I suspect we could. It is about thinking about what questions we ask, remembering, of course, the more questions the more cost. So, we have got to be careful on that. We could think about that. I think it is an interesting way forward. It might be something that your new committee might want to think about as well.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Ah-ha, which we will come onto very, very shortly. Thank you. Cindy [Butts]?

Cindy Butts (AM): Two questions. You talked about the rise in gun crime; I wondered whether or not you had any views on the extent to which your clampdown on knife crime may have led to a spike in gun crime. I am conscious of the quality of the analysis that you gave us when we last met around the satisfaction gap between black and white and how the in depthness I think of that analysis and I just wondered whether we could expect that quality of analysis in relation to the gun and knife crime issue, which would, I think, be extremely useful.

The second point is around nationally there has been a 60% rise in homophobic crime which obviously is concerning. There has also been a rise in relation within London, not quite as significant as that, I think it is something like 15% or so. Of course, we have had two very high-homophobic profile murders. I know that the Metropolitan Police Service have done some fantastic work in carrying out a very specific anti-homophobic operation which is brilliant but again I think the question for me is around the consistency of approach and whether or not operations like that obviously are useful at times when we find that there is a huge spike but it is how do you get that consistency of attention on areas such as this which is what I am asking about.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Well, in relation to your first question actually I may well excite to disappoint, mightn't I? I will ask the same question, "Is there any connectivity because actually it is a familiar issue?" I have to say going back many, many years when I was first an Assistant Chief Constable in Merseyside, then when we had a very, very significant crime problem back in 1995/96 - and people might just remember the headlines then which were about Gun City - there was evidence there, anecdotal perhaps, but I was convinced by the evidence that there had been a move from

settling dispute by knife to settling dispute by gun. If you remember there were various phrases used for it about designer jewellery (**inaudible**), all that thing.

I have asked the same question down here. At this moment in time there is nothing to indicate a move from one to the other, but it is something I think we need to keep under review. I think certainly our Trident gun crime rise is associated slightly differently than some of our concerns around the knife crime and the respect issue and all the rest of it. I think we have got to keep it under review. It is something we have got to analysis and make sure is there any leak across. There is nothing tell me at this moment in time there is but I would not close my mind to the possibility. That is the thing, Cindy [Butts]. Therefore, why is there a rise in Trident gun crime? Again, the questions we are asking and trying to produce that analysis. Is there a trend? Do we have different teams, different players? At the moment the jury is out and we are still looking at the cause of that rise. I think we can do something about it and I do not think at this moment in time there is a link that we are reducing one and increasing the other. I do not think that is the case, but I keep an open mind on it.

Your second point around homophobic crime, you are right. The rise is 13.7% in this performance year since April and that is an additional 39 offences. They are low numbers, but, nevertheless, 39 people who have gone through a pretty horrific circumstance. We are very much doing a lot around this and our performance around investigating this crime is light years ahead of what it used to be and so it should be, but I do note the quote from David Allison, spokesman for the gay rights group OutRage!, and I will quote him accurately so I do not get it wrong,

“One has to bear in mind that a proportion of the increase is down to a greater willingness of gay people to report these crimes. Previously, because they did not trust the police to investigate them, they thought there was no point.”

We have had this debate before, how much of the 13.7% is good news? I think we have got to be careful we do not put it all down to good news because that way we might miss a trend. It is something that we continue to monitor, we monitor it at the Performance Board, we monitor it at the Commissioner’s Senior Management Team (SMT) on Fridays. This is one of the issues that regularly crops up, “Do we have an issue here or not? Do we have particular hotspots?” and it is something that I would expect the Assistant Commissioner of Territorial Policing (TP) through their processes to keep a very tight handle on.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Can I just add on that? One of the interesting things is that there has been a bigger rise in those boroughs that have a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Liaison Officer and that is because of the extra confidence in terms of reporting. Not all boroughs do, but some have more; some have four or five. In that situation the rise is even greater. So, it is about that confidence about coming forward to report.

Cindy Butts (AM): Or maybe we might ask Kirsten's [Hearn] committee or my committee to look at that whole confidence piece and where they do have LGBT Liaison Officers and where they do not, and why, and how we might promulgate that across the organisation.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): What affect that is producing in the figures.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): It is a borough commander decision at the moment whether to have one.

Cindy Butts (AM): Still worth looking at though.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you. Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): To ask the Commissioner really for a very quick update on where we are going with the restructuring of Sapphire teams into SCD2, is that still on target? We are supposed to have a pan-London force now, I think, for September, so I just would like to know where we are going with that.

Also, in delivering that - a question whether too far too fast - an assurance that it is not going to have an impact on the experienced detectives and the recruitment of the experienced detectives into that force coming out of others who clearly depend on having a cadre of experienced detective, and I am thinking, of course, of child abuse investigation teams. So, I need some assurance in setting up the one we are not deleting the good from the other.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Dealing with the second point first, everything you do has potential disbenefits and benefits. We believe the benefits outweigh the disbenefits by going towards a central cadre, actually John's [Yates] old role. So, I think it is something we are aware of the danger and by being aware of the danger we avoid the danger coming to pass. Actually we are not moving significant amounts of people. They are still working on boroughs so we should be able to keep the same connectivity, intelligence and links right the way across these particular sorts of crime groups that do have very significant linkages. So, it is something we are aware of and to make sure we monitor we do not actually end up with that disbenefit in the implementation of this. We are still looking to be on course for September, whether we are actually on 1 September or whether there is any slight slippage in that I can come back to you on that.

Valerie Brasse (AM): That will be across London in September.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): That is across London. This is, and we always said it was, a big thing to do. Will I be disappointed with the slippage? I am always disappointed if we do not deliver exactly on time, but I am very confident we are getting on with this with all due haste as you can imagine.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Actually my concern, as I say, was definitely that we do not see a movement of experienced detectives moving out of something like child abuse investigation team to set up what will then be an SCD2 and that there is a trade off here that cannot be managed because they are trying to do too much too quickly.

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): I think just a word of caution in terms of will there be a big bang date when this happens. Certainly when I left it two or three months - in perfect order, of course - it was anticipated it was going to be rolled out across London probably on a commander area by area basis. So, you will not just get 15 September, "It is happening." It will be rolled out, it will be tested to make sure what are the issues coming out as we roll that out - a bit like we did with Central Communication Command (CCC). You cannot just do something as big as that straightaway. That is what was envisaged and I suspect that is what is going to happen.

Valerie Brasse (AM): No knock-on effect for the child abuse investigation teams? You are sure that there will not be --

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Well, that was clearly an issue and, as the Commissioner has said, we are aware of the issue and we are putting in everything possible in place to mitigate that as a risk.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Am I right in thinking something might be coming back to SOP(?) and we will have an opportunity to examine that in more detail in September or October?

John Yates (Assistant Commissioner): Yes.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good. OK, thank you. Dee [Doocey] and then Jennette [Arnold].

Dee Doocey (AM): Very quick. Could I just ask for consistency round the Commissioner's reports on the figures for police officers? In the police plan it lists the recruits separately but in the Commissioner's report it includes them both as one figure. In order for me to be able to track them, as you know this is my pastime, I would be most grateful if you could put them both in the same format.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Happily.

Dee Doocey (AM): Thank you.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Yes, I have got four questions. Can I just start off, Commissioner, by thanking you for allowing us to meet those brave officers this morning and I do not think we have words to thank them for the work that they do to keep us safe. I am sure, like me, other Members were moved by that.

The questions I have for you are regarding Form 696. You will remember that I was not satisfied at the end of our discussions last meeting about what I was hearing and I would like you to confirm that you have received the letter from the Chief Executive of UK Music, Feargal Sharkey, dated 24 June, because in that what he is saying is the points that I was raising and I am really going to ask you that given what you have said here in your update, is there a possibility that you will add an open, public, online consultation - it could be done either through UK Music or online - so that we can hear from, if you like, more of the public about their experiences around the use of this form because clearly UK Music's experience - the experience that I have had reported to me - and Chris [Boothman] was part of the discussion. I do not feel that we will get, if you like, broad enough input if we do not have an opportunity to get public feed in to the review that is going on. It might be that it is further discussions that we need with the Chief Inspector who is leading this, but at the moment I think there is an issue about what Feargal Sharkey and others are saying and what I heard and what the Authority heard from yourself and the Deputy Commissioner last meeting.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Great. We try to answer all the questions; some people will be satisfied, on some issues some people would be dissatisfied. I will not confirm that I have received a letter because I do not deal with all the correspondence personally, as you would appreciate, but I will go away and find out if we received such a letter and whether we replied to it or not yet.

Secondly, are we considering an open, online consultation on it? No, we have not. We have not considered it at all - not as far as I am aware. Would we? Well, I will take it away and think about it like I would with all suggestions. I think we have got to be careful though. Firstly, how would we do it, how would we set it up, but also who are we actually asking, whose opinion matters most in this. Actually, I think as you would expect, the reason for us doing it has actually been about reducing violence. That has been the reason for us doing it. So, I am not entirely sure, unless we run a very, very, very large campaign around this, we get the opinions of everybody including members of the public who are not associated with the industry. I will happily go away and consider it.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Yes, I am with you here. It is about reducing violence but it is also about the appropriate use of this form. What you will find in the letter from Feargal [Sharkey] is that it is being used in premises where there is no history of violent crime. It has just been in some areas used in a blanket way and so it is a matter of concern, so I welcome your response today and I look forward to seeing if the officers can look to explore how this can be done. I am sure they will be asked to respond to the letter that you got and then there can be ongoing dialogue on this matter.

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): I have given you my commitment. I will go and have a look at it, Jennette [Arnold], but I have also got to be honest I have initially, but I have not thought about it before, some doubts about that process but we will genuinely have a look at it.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Well, this is all about life, isn't it? The second point I have to raise is I am not clear with what is happening with Stop and Search at the moment. Is there a new approach which is talking about its strategic use, location-based use? Can you just be clear about what is the position with the Metropolitan Police Service's use of Stop and Search at the moment?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Well, there has been no change, other than I have always said that Blunt 2 is using intrusive tactics. We have seen an increase in the use of Stop and Search, we have tried to ensure that we take communities with us, we have communities on the operations and we have targeted it on the base of areas and intelligence to actually try to reduce the amount of knife crime. I have said before there is evidence that when we first started this the rate of carriage of knives has now reduced quite significantly. My view is it is right that we continue with this tactic. What are we trying to do? The thing that we discussed at this Authority many, many times. That is quite simply that it is very often how we do it and actually training officers to ensure we do it with respect, with fairness and explaining what we are doing, and keeping, through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in particular, communities on board..

The only other change has been Section 44 which has been a significant change which I have reported to this Authority. I have said before we did it for a certain purpose. I decided, we decided, that I think it was too indiscriminate a use and that we could refine our tactic around Section 44, focus at youths more and that is what we are doing and that is what I mentioned earlier on. We are rolling that out across London.

Jennette Arnold (AM): No, thank you. It is because it is in response to a number of queries that I have had and maybe some confusion about Section 44 and the Metropolitan Police Service's position.

Lastly, I read recently about thinking about victims could select own-faith officers. Have you picked up this story?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Yes, I read it this morning.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Oh, is it just this morning? See, the hours are just like days to me. So, there is no work going on in the Metropolitan Police Service along this line to offer own-faith officers?

Sir Paul Stephenson (Commissioner): Jennette [Arnold], I read it this morning and I asked a similar question. To me it is a common sense approach to use the people we have got in the organisation where those people can benefit an investigation or operation and bring confidence. I would be very, very concerned - and there is no policy in the Metropolitan Police Service - to go down an idea that only people of a certain creed, a certain ethnicity or a certain religion - that would be somewhere where we will never go in the Metropolitan Police Service. I want to just make sure I check out what is reported in the newspaper to fix the facts of what we are doing. I would encourage the good use

of a broad church that we have got in the Metropolitan Police Service and that is why we are trying to increase our ethnicity in the Metropolitan Police Service and trying to increase our diversity so we can sensibly use that where it builds community confidence, but that is not about only one sort of officer investigating one particular crime to do with their religion, race, faith or anything else. Absolutely not.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Yes, that is what I would expect because that is a practice that has been proven and any other way would just put an expectation that could not be met and all sorts of problems. Thank you, because that is what this meeting is about as well for us to hear from you about all these ridiculous stories that are out there.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Not all of them I hope. OK, good, thank you very much, Jennette [Arnold]. I think, Kit [Malthouse] you wanted to say something.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): Yes, I just wanted to finish quickly by congratulating you on two [particular events]. First of all the retrieval of the machine gun yesterday in Croydon from a 13-year-old girl which takes - I know having been out on operations - incredible courage to go through a door knowing that there is a weapon like that on the other side. We talk a lot about the big crimes that hit the headlines here and I wanted to particularly congratulate you on one that has not so much but is of a lot of importance. That was the apprehension of a prolific distraction burglar in southeast London last week who had spent many months preying on elderly and vulnerable people and was caught with his girlfriend, I think, in the middle of last week. That will make a massive difference to a lot of people who have lived in fear in southeast London. So, congratulations.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good. Thank you, Kit [Malthouse]. That brings our discussion of the Commissioner's report to a close and we are now onto Item 5, the Civil Liberties Panel Terms of Reference and the Chief Executive is going to make a report.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): I hope I do not need to, Chairman. The Civil Liberties Panel has met twice and the Chair is here and the Terms of Reference are here.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Victoria [Borwick], tell us about the Terms of Reference of the Civil Liberties Panel.

Victoria Borwick (AM): Thank you very much indeed, Chairman. We have met twice. We have put our Terms of Reference together for your approval. We have all worked as a great team on this and we have also decided to have four meetings. We will have three evidence sessions, a visit and then we will have a wrap-up meeting to discuss and hopefully this is all going to happen by the end of the year. We hope that is satisfactory.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Very, very good. Can I take it that the board approves of the Terms of Reference of the Civil Liberties Panel?

Authority Members: Agreed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We can, brilliantly. Item 5 is concluded. I would like, therefore, to ask the Chief Executive if she would introduce a report on the Policing London Annual Report.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): Chairman, the annual report itself which we are required to do by statute is a joint document. Members have had an opportunity to see both the MPS half, which Anne [McMeel] may want to say something about, and the MPA half. The report is in front of Members for formal adoption so that we can comply with the statutory position.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good. Can I ask if Members approve the publication of the annual report?

Authority Members: Agreed.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Thank you, Members. Any other urgent business? Jenny [Jones] and Dee [Doocey].

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. I just wanted to ask about the report into Ian Blair's hiring of a friend and all that. I just really want to know: when are we going to here why the committee did not just automatically agree the report or whatever you did. Secondly, has he had a copy of the report? I am just curious about how all this happened quite honestly.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Reshard [Auladin]?

Reshard Auladin (AM): Well, let me ask Catherine [Crawford] first of all to talk about the publication of the report. The committee has met and unanimously made decisions about a number of issues, but Catherine [Crawford] will tell you about whether he has a copy of the report or not and what her views are on that.

In terms of the decisions that have been made normally the decision of the sub-committee is not made public, it involves individuals, it was Ian Blair or his fellow solicitors who decided to make the decision public and that is the reason why we have responded. The reason why the report cannot be published at the moment, it contains information about a number of other people who can well be defamatory as well as of concerns to those people. So, at some point after we have dealt with all of that the report may be published, but it will have to be heavily redacted. That is one of the reasons, but in terms of whether he has a copy of that report Catherine [Crawford] will tell you.

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): He does not have a copy of the report. We have followed proper process and, as Reshard [Auladin] has properly said, we regard this as a matter of exempt business until he chose to go public on the issue.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): Good, thank you. Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): It is on the exempt minutes of the Olympic. I just think one of the sentences is a bit misleading. Happy to do it offline if that is a better way to do it.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive): We do need to go into exempt.

Kit Malthouse (Vice-Chairman): We need to go into exempt anyway.

Boris Johnson (Chairman): We will do that in just a minute. OK, good. Can I, therefore, regrettably ask the press and public to make their way out and we will get on with the rest of the business?