

Written responses to members questions

Full Authority – November 2010

Valerie Shawcross

Streatham Police Station

In your reply to a question on 10 November you express yourself of the view that Streatham Police station is a satisfactory working environment. You also say that it is the only station with longer stay custody facilities where inmates do not have access to a shower.

Please answer some follow up questions.

There are 'portacabin style' temporary structures to the rear of Streatham Police station which are currently in use by officers. How many of these are there?

There are seven.

How old is each of them?

We do not hold this information.

Is there or is there not a public right of way which passes through part of the station site ?

Yes there are three public rights of way over this site:-

- 1) From the rear gardens of the residential properties on Shrubbery Road to Streatham High Rd. This is rarely used and is gated (we provide residents with keys - these are recorded).
- 2) From Streatham High Rd between the adjacent pub and the custody block. This is rarely used and is gated.
- 3) The main one in Shrubbery Road is extensively in use by the pub for deliveries .

On how many occasions have infestations of rodents or insects been reported in the station in the last 2 years?

In the last 2 years there have been 6 reported incidents of rodents, 3 of birds and 0 of insects.

How large is the public side of the foyer/counter area in the station? (Sq metres)?

The public side of the Front Counter is approx. 8 sq meters (approx. 16 sq meters if inclusive of Interview rooms).

Is the Station public entrance DDA compliant?

The front office is partially DDA compliant, consisting of hearing induction loops, accessible car parking spaces for mobility impaired, and staff trained to offer assistance if required. However, the public can contact Direct Enquiries (the nationwide disabled access register) which can help the public in finding the nearest police station with the appropriate facilities.

Are all the offices of the station now accessed through one main entrance or is it necessary to leave the building, walk along the street and re-enter through another door for staff to meet colleagues in some other parts of the building ?

There are three external entrances to this site all areas are accessible from the yard area and do not require staff to exit the building and re enter from the street.

When was there a property survey last carried out on this station? Please send me a copy of this survey.

The last formal property inspection was undertaken in January 2010. The resultant report is very detailed and it may be more useful to have a personal briefing. Jane Bond, the Director of Property Services, can be contacted on 020 7230 2304.

When did either the Commissioner or MPA Chairman last visit this station?

The Commissioner and Management Board members regularly visit police stations as part of their role. Therefore a list is not kept of previous visits to stations.

John Biggs Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Group

I note from a recent report that the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Group, one of the IAGs, has not met for some years. What reasons are there for this disuse? What if any plans exist for improving liaison with Gypsy and Traveller Groups?

- The Gypsy and Traveller IAG was formed in 2004 and in the first 2 years met at least 4 times a year.
- From the outset the meetings were not the main priority but the group provided a network of community leaders with which the MPS could consult. Attendance at meetings was sporadic and often minimal.
- Although there have been no formal meetings for a long time, the network of members is still used to provide advice to individual B(OCU)s, Specialist OCUs, and corporately, and the chair attends occasional meetings with other IAG chairs. Advice by members has been provided on cultural issues such as family funerals, critical incidents involving members of the community, MPS operations, and National issues affecting the community.

- Engagement with Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities has been progressed on a borough level through Safer Neighbourhood Teams where large communities live, especially on authorized caravan sites, and there is a network of Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers (GTLO) in almost half of London boroughs. Locally based members of the Gypsy and Irish Traveller community are better placed to provide local advice to Borough Commanders as and when necessary.