

APPENDIX 1

Protocol for MPA Member attendance as observers at public order events

Principles

The MPS wishes to be completely open and transparent in welcoming MPA Members to observe the operational policing of major events/demonstrations. This role is seen as of positive benefit to both the MPA and the MPS.

The Clerk of the MPA and the MPS/MPA Liaison Officer will be the main points of contact and all arrangements will be made through them only.

All those involved must be clear that arrangements will, of necessity, vary widely from event to event and may be subject to last minute change depending on operational demand.

Members must be aware that observing operational policing may result in them becoming witnesses to the event, and any notes they take at the time may be disclosable in any subsequent legal proceedings.

Approval of MPA observers

The Clerk will have the discretion to decide if an event constitutes a major public order event where the attendance of MPA observers would be beneficial. The Clerk will do this in consultation with senior officers of the MPS and the Chair of the Authority as appropriate.

Liaison on formal visits to major operations must be conducted through the MPS Liaison Officer in MPS Government Affairs, who will liaise directly with the Clerk of the MPA. Members will be contacted through the Clerk with a programme for the day agreed with Gold/Silver. Members will be presented with a programme of facilities tailored individually to that particular event. They will be asked whether they wish to take part as observers, on behalf of the MPA, with a deadline for expressions of interest set well in advance of the event.

The Clerk will agree MPA representation at the event. Where the number of Members wishing to attend exceeds the number that the MPS can cater for, the Clerk will decide who should attend, if necessary in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, taking account of:

- which Members have had an opportunity to observe an event before
- whether a Member has particular interests or lead responsibility which would make their attendance relevant

Where prior approval has been given to a Member's attendance, this attendance shall count as an approved duty in terms of Members' allowances.

Facilities offered by the MPS

The MPS can only offer facilities to Members whose participation has been agreed in advance by the Clerk.

- **Briefings:** special pre-event briefings for the MPA will be relevant only for major events such as May Day, Notting Hill and New Year's Eve. Pre-event briefings on smaller demonstrations or marches will be negotiated with those Members expressing an interest. These will be negotiated with the Clerk on an event by event basis.

The aim will be to provide an initial briefing at an opportune time well in advance of the event, with another briefing close to the event to give the up to date situation. Gold or Silver will host and present briefings wherever possible.

- **Contents of the programme:** the programme will generally include:

A briefing/meeting with Gold/Silver at a set time, although Gold must reserve the right to cancel this briefing if necessary because of the situation at that time.

One tour of GT (when open) at a specific time.

For agreed events, a mobile tour of the operation for as long as Members wish. The vehicle will be staffed by MPS officers as guides with radio links etc. Where there is a large amount of interest, a mini-bus will be provided to allow for flexibility on numbers and to allow Members to join and leave the vehicle at different times.

- The MPS asks Members not to arrive at New Scotland Yard on the day without notice. The MPS regrets that transport or other facilities cannot be provided in these circumstances.
- Any individual arrangements that Members propose to make with local BOCU staff or bronze commanders at a major public order event (as opposed to a purely local Borough event) **MUST** be requested through MPS Government Affairs. MPS staff approached with such a request will, in turn, refer these to Government Affairs.
- Feedback, whether written or in person by arrangement, is invited from any Members observing at a public order event.

Contacts at MPS Government Affairs

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