

MAYOR OF LONDON

Sir Thomas Winsor WS

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and
HM Chief Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and
Fire & Rescue Services
tom.winsor@hmicfrs.gov.uk

Date: 15 March 2021

Dear Tom,

Policing of a vigil for Sarah Everard on 13 March 2021 at Clapham Common

I write in relation to the activities of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in the policing of a vigil for Sarah Everard on 13 March 2021 at Clapham Common, and events leading up to it. I understand that the Home Secretary has also written to request a review of the operational decisions made that night, the application of the law in the context of the Covid regulations and the Met's engagement with those at the event and the wider public.

I request that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services review the activities of the MPS in relation to the above event, with the following specific areas of focus:

- a. How effectively did the MPS plan and prepare for the 'Reclaim these Streets' vigil, including discussions between the organisers and the Central South BCU in the days leading up to it and the subsequent change in approach from the MPS;
- b. How the MPS adjusted those plans following the decision to cancel the original vigil;
- c. How did the MPS engage, collaborate and communicate with local partners and local communities in preparation for and during the vigil;
- d. The leadership and operational decision-making during the vigil itself, in the context of the COVID-19 regulations, and whether the MPS achieved the right balance between enforcing the law and the rights of those attending the vigil;
- e. What lessons can be learned from the policing of this vigil for the policing of future events.

You will be aware that the planned vigil on the 13 March at Clapham Common was exceptional in many ways. Given the impact that the murder of Sarah Everard and the policing of the vigil has had on communities, particularly women and girls, and in recognition of the repercussions for trust and confidence in the MPS, I would be grateful if you could expedite this review and provide emerging findings.

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Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and I would be happy to discuss the areas of focus in more detail, or any other matters relating to this, should that be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London