

MAYOR OF LONDON

Navin Shah AM
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Date 17 MAR 2017



Thank you for letter of 2 March regarding your concerns about the rise in knife crime in London, and more specifically in your constituency areas.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of these young men who were tragically murdered. I am familiar with each of these tragic incidents and the deaths of Djodjo Nsaka, Quamari Serunkuma-Barnes and Mohammed Al-zufairi reinforce that serious youth violence and knife crime is a growing threat - we are seeing more and more incidents on our streets. This is absolutely unacceptable to me as Mayor, as a Londoner and as a father of two teenage daughters growing up in our city.

Sophie Linden, my Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime, recently met with the Chief Executives, Borough Commanders and Council Leaders of Brent and Harrow to discuss the boroughs' local priorities for the new Police and Crime Plan. In Brent they also specifically discussed these incidents and the serious youth violence that is affecting the borough, and how best to prevent such cases from re-occurring.

I will be releasing the new Police and Crime Plan and Knife Crime Strategy for London, this month and in June respectively. They will focus on creating positive change, addressing underlying vulnerabilities and strengthening protective factors such as environmental and socio-economic challenges, which are critical in addressing youth crime and supporting our most vulnerable citizens.

When I implement the new Knife Crime Strategy it will focus resources on tackling the city's gangs, cracking down on shops selling knives and working on tougher community payback for those caught with knives, in addition to jail time for those who commit these crimes. Prevention and early intervention will also ensure that schools and communities play their vital role in addressing knife crime.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is committed to tackling knife crime. Operation Teal and Operation Equinox are MPS operations to tackle knife crime and violent crime, including knife crime in night time activities, and involve visible patrols and weapon sweeps amongst other activities. Operation Sceptre also targets habitual knife carriers and seeks to engage with the public to increase awareness and provide opportunities to surrender weapons.

MAYOR OF LONDON

So far, 18,000 knives have been surrendered and over 4,700 knives have been seized since the operation launched a year ago. In response to knife and gun crime in Brent, together with Brent Police - including the MPS Gangs Command, the Council has set up coordinated proactive activity, with days of actions since May 2016 in hotspot locations across the borough.

I am grateful to you for getting in touch. I hope that this provides some reassurance that these issues are taken extremely seriously. I am committed to making London an even better and safer place for all.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Navin Shah AM

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LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

2nd March 2017

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Mayor,

RISE IN KNIFE CRIME

I am writing to you to share my concerns about the rise of knife crime in the capital, and especially in my constituency of Brent and Harrow.

Already this year there have been three tragic deaths following knife attacks in my constituency. On January 20th, 19 year old business student Djodjo Nsaka was stabbed close to his halls of residence near Wembley Stadium. Just three days later Quamari Serunkuma-Barnes, a 15 year old pupil of Capital City Academy, was attacked in Willesden. On Monday this week, 34 year old and father of two Mohammed Al-zufairi was murdered on a busy high street in Wealdstone.

As I am sure you will appreciate, there is deep concern amongst my constituents about these senseless killings. Yesterday I visited the Ignite Trust Centre in Wealdstone, which works with vulnerable young people aged 13 – 25. There was a real sense of anxiety amongst the young people, volunteers, and trustees.

It deeply concerns me that these devastating incidents seem to be happening more and more: the escalation of knife crime on our streets is not something any of us should accept. Earlier this year, the outgoing Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said 'warning lights are flashing' after ONS figures showed a 22% rise in violent crime in England and Wales. The latest quarterly figures show an 11% increase in knife crime.

There is need for swift action to reverse the rising trend of knife crime across Brent, Harrow, and London as a whole. I understand you are working on a knife crime strategy, and I would be very grateful if you could share details of this initiative. I would also appreciate a clear and direct response to the incidents in my communities.

It's time we put a stop to these awful acts before more lives are tragically lost.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Navin Shah". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Navin" and the last name "Shah" clearly distinguishable.

Navin Shah AM

London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow