

Dear Stella,

I hope you and your family are all well. Thank you for your letter.

I can well understand the concerns of your constituents. I share the anger at the killing of George Floyd and the terrible events which we have seen unfold since. And I am very aware that although in this country we police in a very different way to the United States, this is inevitably going to cause anxiety among some people.

In London we believe that we Police in partnership and with the consent of local communities. We are constantly alert to the mistakes we have made in the past - and are mindful that the memory of these mistakes still lives on in the minds of some people. But I would like to reassure your constituents that we are your officers and highlight the work we have done to give greater reassurance.

1. We are part of the Safer Neighbourhood Board, which local ward panels feed into. The SNB holds Police to account for various areas of Policing, including a separate scrutiny panel that concentrates on Stop and Search. All local residents are welcome to be part of these. <https://democracy.walthamforest.gov.uk/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=689>
2. All officers receive training in stop and search, they all wear Body Worn Video which records their engagements, they are all identifiable by shoulder numbers and name badges.
3. All stops and the reasons for them are recorded and these are retained.
4. There are clear instructions on our web-page on how people or a third party can raise a complaint about any Police action. <https://www.met.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>
5. People can go onto the MOPAC web-page and obtain all the details regarding reported crime and stop and search figures for their area. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac>
6. While we will always reflect on how we deliver our service, our officers are out 24 hours a day, everyday looking after people. I regularly receive feedback regarding the amazing work that local officers do.

I do hope this goes some way to allay concerns but am of course always available if you wish to discuss more. Finally, I must make the point that like your constituents I believe firmly in the rule of law. Recent events in the US have only convinced me further that everyone should be judged by the law – and that very much includes the Police.

Take care,

Richard