

Joanne McCartney AM

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Andrew Dilnott CBE
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
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Date: 14 February 2013

Dear Mr Dilnott

POLICE OFFICER STRENGTH FIGURES FOR LONDON

The Mayor of London, through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), is currently consulting on his Draft Police and Crime Plan for London 2013-2017.

During this consultation process the Mayor has produced a number of materials: [The Police and Crime Plan Consultation Draft 2013-2017](#), the [Draft Police and Crime Plan for Consultation](#) and [borough specific consultation slides](#), please find examples of these documents enclosed.

Within these documents¹ the Mayor's Office compares Oct 2011 police numbers to their promise for 2015 across London and for every borough, showing an increase in numbers in all 32 boroughs.

However, the Oct 2011 police numbers quoted by MOPAC in the Draft Plan are not the same as the actual number of police officers there were in London in Oct 2011. The actual number of police officers is given by the MPS and published on the Mayor's own website- [London Datastore](#).

When we queried this with the Mayor's office we received two differing statements as to why they were not using the actual number of police officers figures for Oct 2011 as published on the publicly accessible London Datastore.

One of the reasons was given in a letter to myself dated 8th February 2013 (attached). The letter states: *The OCTOBER 2011 figures are not incorrect – and remain a true reflection of the changes proposed and the officers in neighbourhoods and command strengths, on a LIKE FOR LIKE BASIS. The Oct 2011 baseline figures have been adjusted to reflect the services that will continue to be delivered at borough level (i.e. to exclude those services that are being centralised concurrently with the new policing model e.g. crime recording bureau and intelligence bureau)*

¹ See, for example pg 10, [The Police and Crime Plan Consultation Draft 2013-2017](#)

MOPAC seem to be claiming that the Oct 2011 police numbers they quote in the Police and Crime Plan Consultation documents are in essence hypothetical. They have 'adjusted' the figures for Oct 2011, stripping out police who would not have been in London boroughs if the changes they propose- "the new policing model"- had been in place in Oct 2011. They claim they are comparing like-for-like.

The second reason given for the discrepancy in the figures was given in a statement issued in a press release on 8th February from MOPAC which stated that the figures quoted in the document are 'budgeted' figures. This statement which is not published on the Mayor's website, but was passed to me by journalists covering City Hall stated:

A spokesperson for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime said: "The figures used in the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan, currently out for consultation, are correct. They are based on budgeted numbers for police officers in October 2011, looking ahead to 2015. These figures compare like-for-like, so that the public can see the changes that are proposed, with no borough losing officers and an extra 2,600 officers in neighbourhood teams.

We have a number of concerns about the discrepancy in the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan and request that you investigate so to provide some clarity on the matter for Londoners.

- 1) Both of the reasons provided to us by MOPAC for the discrepancy in the numbers are unverifiable against any publicly available data.
- 2) Although the public consultation on the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan has been in train since mid January 2013, this is the first time that Londoners have been informed that the figures presented in the consultation document were anything other than the actual police officer numbers in Oct 2011.
- 3) The numbers provided in the Draft Police and Crime Plan are disingenuous; the reality in London in Oct 2011 was that there were more officers in the Boroughs than the Mayor claims. Therefore, when you use actual Oct 2011 police numbers the outcomes for all London boroughs are very different to the Mayor's claims. Half of all Boroughs lose police officers, and none get as many as the Mayor projects.

As you can understand the need for clarity on this issue is paramount both for the validity of the consultation currently being undertaken by the Mayor but also, for public confidence in statistics used by public officials and public authorities.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. McQuay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joanne McCartney AM
London Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey

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8th February 2013

Dear Joanne

I write in reference to the exchange you had with the Mayor at the budget meeting this morning about police numbers. In particular I want to utterly refute the assertion you made at that meeting, that because the datastore numbers were wrong, the calculations underpinning the police and crime plan and the local policing model proposals are wrong.

- The letter I sent you (attached) admits to an error on the Datastore numbers for SEPTEMBER 2012. These are actual numbers that are ENTIRELY UNRELATED to the MPS figures for the Local Policing Model and the public consultation, which relate to a robust OCTOBER 2011 baseline.
- The OCTOBER 2011 figures are not incorrect - and remain a true reflection of the changes proposed and the officers in neighbourhoods and command strengths, on a LIKE FOR LIKE BASIS. The Oct 2011 baseline figures have been adjusted to reflect the services that will continue to be delivered at borough level (i.e. to exclude those services that are being centralised concurrently with the new policing model e.g. crime recording bureau and intelligence bureau.)

In summary, the error on the Datastore for one month in SEPTEMBER 2012 has no impact on the MPS budgeted numbers used in the consultation

Yours sincerely



Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Cc Sir Edward Lister
All London Assembly Members