



Stella Creasy MP

Working For Walthamstow



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24th January 2012

Sir Michael Scholar
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 1QQ

Dear Sir Michael,

In a recent press release Boris Johnson has attacked Ken Livingstone's record on crime as Mayor by making comparisons of offences recorded by the police between 2000/01 and 2007/08. As you are aware, police recorded crime statistics were affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which led to increases in police recording of crimes. As you mentioned in correspondence to Chris Grayling in February 2010 such a comparison, without qualification, of police recorded statistics are likely to mislead the public. There is no mention of the NCRS in the press release.

In the same press release, to highlight how crime has fallen since May 2008, comparisons are made between the total number of crime recorded in the 44 month period that the Mayor has been in office and the preceding 44 month period (the last 44 months than Ken Livingstone was Mayor). Such comparisons do not take into account any seasonal variations in crime recording as they cover different parts of the year. Such a calculation also does not take account of the longer term trends of falling recorded crime in London since 2002/03.

A full copy of the press release is copied into this correspondence.

I would be grateful if you could ask the Mayor of London to desist from this misleading use of statistics, as I fear that the way that these statistics have been constructed seems likely to damage public trust in official statistics.

Yours sincerely

Stella Creasy MP

BackBoris2012.com
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BORIS JOHNSON CUTS CRIME AFTER BOOSTING POLICE NUMBERS

Boris Johnson today said one of his proudest achievements as Mayor of London was cutting crime by more than 10% after he increased police numbers on London's streets.

Speaking on LBC's Nick Ferrari Breakfast show this morning, Mayor Boris Johnson said: "I really don't want to go back to an era of waste and divisiveness that characterised the last mayoralty.

"Crime figures are down compared with Ken Livingstone and we've had to do it in the teeth of a recession. Crime has come down more than 10% overall. Murder is down almost 25% since I've become Mayor. I'm very proud of that. That's because of more police."

"We've done this by negotiating very hard with the Government... That's how we've been able to fight crime and keep crime down in a very considerable way. There are going to be about 1,000 more police in May than there was when I began. There are about a million more patrols."

Boris Johnson has invested an additional £42million in the Metropolitan Police Service this year to boost the number of police officers on London's streets. This extra funding will mean there are 1,000 more police officers in London by May 2012, and one million more patrols annually compared with when he was elected in May 2008.

This investment has led to a fall in crime of more than 10%. The total number of crimes committed in London across Boris Johnson's 44 months as Mayor is 10.6% less compared with those committed in Ken Livingstone's last 44 months.

This reduction comes after years of rising crime and broken promises under Ken Livingstone. Under Ken Livingstone violent crime increased 11.2% per cent and actual bodily harm rose 84% between 2000/01 and 2007/08.

When Boris Johnson became Mayor he promised to work day and night to turn things around. By working with all of London's Boroughs and Londoners whatever their background or politics, he has put more police on our streets, brought down crime significantly, tackled reoffending and youth crime and made London the safest it has been for ten years.

This election is a choice between Ken Livingstone who is tired and had his day and would take London backwards, and Boris Johnson whose energy and fresh thinking will continue to take London forward, by continuing to cut crime and protecting police numbers.

Notes to Editor:

Boris Johnson's record as Mayor

- Crime in London has been cut by 10.6 per cent, robberies are down 16.7 per cent and murders have decreased by 24.4 per cent, their lowest level since 1978. Bus crime has also fallen by 32.9 per cent.[1]

- By May 2012 there will be 1,000 more police officers on the streets than when Boris was elected in May 2008.[2] By May 2012 there will be 1 million more police patrols annually in London than there were in May 2008.

- By the definitive measure – murder rates – London has never been safer. You are four times more likely to be murdered in New York than in London [3] – in fact, murders in London are at their lowest level since 1978.[4]

- 11,000 knives and guns have been taken off London's streets through Operation Blunt 2 and the use of knife arches and amnesties.[5]

- There has been a particular focus on reducing youth crime. Measures to tackle this include Boris's Payback London – under which teenagers convicted of minor crimes have to win back their right to free travel through community service.[6] Ken Livingstone's record as Mayor

- Under Ken Livingstone violent crime increased. Violent crime in London went up 11.2 per cent between 2000/01 and 2007/08.[7]

- Under Ken Livingstone drug crime more than doubled. Drug crime in London increased by 201.6 per cent between 2000/01 and 2007/08.[8]

- Under Ken Livingstone actual bodily harm almost doubled. Cases of ABH in London increased by 30,641 between 2000/01 and 2007/08, a rise of 84 per cent.[9]

- Under Ken Livingstone Tube crime increased. Between 2001/02 and 2007/08 public disorder offences increased by 521 per cent, violent crime was up by 56 per cent and drug crime was up by 128 per cent.[10] Bus crime also increased. The London Assembly Transport Committee found at the beginning of 2008 that overall crime on buses had increased by over 17 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06.[11]

[1] MPS statistics. Comparing 44 months of Ken with 44 months of Boris: September 04 – April 08 with May 08 – December 11

[2] [2] Mayor of London, The Mayor's Consultation Budget, 22nd December 2011, p. 1, <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Mayorconsultationbudget201213.pdf>

[3] Greater London Authority, People's Question Time, 3 March 2010, p. 10, <http://legacy.london.gov.uk/gla/pqt/docs/20100303-harrow-transcript.pdf>

[4] Mayoral Press Release, 22 September 2010, http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/mayor-chair-crime-reduction-board-london

[5] Mayoral Press Release, 3 February 2011, http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/mayor-helps-bid-rid-streets-knives-weapons-disposal-bin

[6] London Legacy Website, 'Payback London', 21 May 2009, <http://legacy.london.gov.uk/mayor/mayor-decisions/docs/12062009-md306-payback-london-signed.pdf>

[7] MPS, Crime Figures 2000-2008, <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm>.

[8] MPS, Crime Figures 2000-2008, <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm>.

[9] MPS, Crime Figures 2000-2008, <http://maps.met.police.uk/tables.htm>.

[10] British Transport Police, Statistical Bulletin 2002/03 – 2007/08, http://www.btp.police.uk/freedom_of_information/publications.aspx.

[11] London Assembly Transport Committee, Crime and Disorder on London's Buses, p.8, January 2008.