

To: Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Crime and Policing

xx September 2021

Dear Minister,

As the city recovers and lockdown has eased, it is important that Londoners feel safe and secure on the streets.

Since funding cuts in 2018, many Business Improvement Districts have needed to fund additional security services in their areas, including introducing patrols and wardens. Due to the current economic conditions and reduced income this year, as well as a forecast reduction in future years, this funding will come under further pressure. Some BIDs have already been forced to stop, or greatly reduce funding for security and policing services. Local authorities have, in some cases, stepped in and filled the gap, but this is at best a temporary solution and unsustainable in the longer term given cuts to their own core funding.

This may lead to a perception of, or an actual, increase in the crime which would have a negative effect on footfall and local businesses at a time when it's vital to encourage Londoners back into the capital to accelerate the recovery.

The Government has committed to increase core funding for policing by more than £1.1 billion, an increase of almost 10%, as part of the Prime Minister Boris Johnson's 2019 election promise for 20,000 new officers in England. The Mayor Sadiq Khan has increased the council tax precept to fund policing and called on the government to provide specific support for London's boroughs and a guarantee the capital will see funding for 6,000 new police officers.

Whilst these commitments are to be welcomed, the situation requires a major strategic reset, given the increase in gang-related crime and disorderly behaviour, and as such we are calling on the Government and the GLA to work with the capital's BIDs which play a key role in regeneration and recovery to do the following:

- 1) As a matter of priority, therefore, the Mayor must undertake a high-level review of the resources required in 2021/22 so that funding and business planning across multiple organisations can be aligned and it is crucial that the BIDs are included as part of this review process.
- 2) Seek further investment to allow greater funding to be allocated for on the ground policing.



We are committed to working with local authorities and MOPAC to ensure London's streets are safe and welcoming, and as such would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

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