

# Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

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Tel: 020 7983 4362

Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM  
Metropolitan Police Commissioner  
[By Email]

4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Cressida,

## **Re: Police Resources for the Potential Re-Opening of Household Waste and Recycling Centres in London**

I am writing to you regarding the potential for Metropolitan Police officers to be deployed to household waste and recycling centres once they are re-opened. I am aware that Bromley has opened its centre today.

As I am sure you are aware, lockdown has meant people are clearing out their homes and doing more gardening, leading to a desire for household waste and recycling centres to re-open as quickly as possible. I am also aware of correspondence from Government adding to this pressure on local authorities. As has been widely reported, there are significant issues in London and across the UK with refuse at the present time.<sup>1</sup> Of course, many boroughs are also keen to re-open their centres for residents but are facing a range of challenges including staff absence and ensuring centres can stay safe and adhere to social distancing.

One option that has been suggested and is being considered is that police officers could be deployed to patrol household waste and recycling centres to support staff in ensuring residents act and queue appropriately and maintain a safe distance.

If officers were to be deployed to household waste and recycling centres in London for this reason, I have several questions:

- Do you think this is the best use of officers?
- What other activities and work would officers likely be withdrawn from to help at household waste and recycling centres?
- How do you imagine this would impact on the wider work of the Met at the present time, which is already challenging?
- How long do you envisage that officers would be required to help and patrol centres in this way?
- What work are you doing with London boroughs to develop an appropriate response?

I would be interested to know your thoughts on this matter and indeed whether any preparatory work or discussion have already been undertaken within the Met to prepare for the possibility of officers being assigned to household waste and recycling centres across London as boroughs re-open them.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-52490195>

I look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Caroline Pidgeon AM  
Liberal Democrat Assembly Member