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Our ref: RS/10/15

Your ref:

Date: 10th September 2015

Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

Dear Commissioner,

Re: The future of Police Community Support Officers

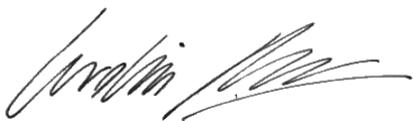
I understand that options for the future of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) are to be discussed at the next MPS Management Board meeting on the 29th September.

I am writing to urge you to maintain the current structure and ensure we have PCSOs in every ward in London, working hard in their area. PCSOs are at the heart of the Met's neighbourhood policing alongside Police Constables. PCSOs are your eyes and ears on the ground and are far more representative of London's diverse communities. Their ability to connect with young people, provide reassurance and to gather on the ground intelligence is crucial if we are to increase confidence in the Met Police and provide reassurance for all our communities. I believe that getting rid of PCSOs would be a backwards step and would destroy safer neighbourhood teams and policing.

On 3rd June this year you came before The Assembly and told us that **"There are no reductions in police officers or Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) planned"**. I hope that you will stand by that statement and fight for our safer neighbourhood resources.

Any radical options such as cutting all PCSOs must go out to detailed public consultation, so that Londoners and our communities can express their views.

I await your prompt reply.
With best wishes,



Caroline Pidgeon AM
Police & Crime Committee Co-Chair
Leader, London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group

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