



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Services
Home Office
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Dear Nick

I write to bring to your attention a number of concerns that were raised with me following one of my regular meetings with the local police force in my constituency.

As you know, against the backdrop of a considerable rise in motorcycle crime, there are calls for a revision of current police pursuit policy. While I am aware that pursuits still do occur, and of course understand that legislation and guidance is there to offset the danger created by a chase with the risk the police are attempting to avert, I believe the evolving nature of crime in London may mean that existing regulations are no longer fit for purpose. Indeed, thefts involving mopeds or motorcycles are running at 13,005 over the past 12 months – a 41 per cent increase on the previous period – and around 1,500 scooters are being stolen every month in our capital alone.

Snatch offences are becoming a significant problem, and one that we must work with the NPCC and the College of Policing to tackle. I believe we are beginning to see a shift in opinion within the Met itself, with many of its officers favouring a change in approach to pursuit policy and welcoming a reassessment of a number of the provisions included in the Road Traffic Act 1988. I appreciate that a number of high profile cases in recent years have served as a reminder of the need to respond proportionately to this problem – not least the tragic collision that killed Makayah McDermott and Rozanne Cooper in Penge last year – but as was made clear to me in my recent meeting with the Bromley Borough team, we are getting to the stage where the safety of the perpetrator is being put before that of the victim and pedestrians.

The second concern that I promised to pass on relates to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), and specifically the delays that continue to hold up a considerable number of cases under investigation. While everyone understands the need to have an independent and active watchdog, it is unacceptable that officers can be left in limbo while inquiries drag on over consecutive years. I know this is a matter that has been raised many times before, but I would be grateful if it is something you and your officials can continue to push for improvements on.

I would welcome your thoughts on the above.

Bob Neill

Bob Neill MP