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LABOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MITCHAM AND MORDEN

Mr Boris Johnson
The Mayor
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

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06 February 2014

Dear Mr Johnson

I am writing about my concerns regarding the number of serving police officers in Merton.

I was recently informed by the previous Borough Commander for Merton that as of Sept 2013, Merton had 20.1 fewer Sergeants than in March 2010 (1.4 fewer Sergeants on SNT duties and 18.7 fewer on other duties), 25.6 fewer PCs (37.7 more PCs on SNT duties offset by 63.3 fewer PCs on other duties), and 33.9 fewer PCSOs (24 fewer PCSOs on SNT duties and 9.9 fewer PCSOs on other duties). From a total of 390.8 more than one in five of Merton's police staff have gone.

Furthermore, SNT officers are no longer obliged to work in individual wards, residents no longer know their officers, and those officers no longer build up intelligence and contacts within a particular ward.

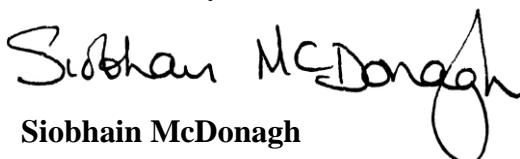
In addition to the loss of so many officers and the weakening of what is defined as Safer Neighbourhood policing, every local SNT police base in my constituency has been closed, meaning it takes longer for the remaining police to reach the neighbourhoods they police.

This all follows reports that since the General Election the Metropolitan Police has lost more than 3,000 officers and half its PCSOs. During your last election campaign, the people who voted for you were promised police numbers would be maintained at a higher level than you have achieved, and I share their disappointment and sense of being let down.

I would therefore be grateful if you would let me have details of the actual number of police officers in each of Merton's 20 wards who are dedicated to working in that ward alone, for March 2010, March 2011, March 2012, March 2013 and January 2014. Please provide this information in 3 sections: Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs.

As before, I am happy to receive this information as a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Yours sincerely,


Siobhain McDonagh