



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Sadiq Khan  
Mayor of London  
Greater London Authority

Our Ref: SO16978

26 May 2021

Dear Sadiq,

**Re: Need for greater police presence in Richmond**

Last Monday (17<sup>th</sup> May), a man was stabbed in the Kings Road area of my constituency, Richmond Park. Sadly, he passed away on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Just one week prior, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, a 14-year old boy was also stabbed, this time during a robbery at Teddington Lock, which connects my constituency with Twickenham.

The reaction amongst my constituents has been widespread and, understandably, strong. This devastating incident cannot be removed from the wider context of rising crime levels in the capital, and as such, my constituents are anxious for visible action. Myself, Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council and Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, all believe it is important that we act in such a way that provides effective reassurance.

We are therefore writing to request that greater police numbers be stationed in Richmond. There is no doubt that Richmond, along with Kingston, a section of which I also represent, are relatively safe when compared with other, more inner-city Boroughs. However, that they both have to share a command unit with Wandsworth leaves them in a situation where resources are typically skewed towards the latter. We believe that in light of the recent tragic events, this must now change.

In previous correspondence you have cited a lack of Government funding as an obstacle to such provisions. However, on my behalf of our concerned constituents, I would request that you think expansively and explore other ways of bolstering police presence on our streets.

While I have a meeting with CS Chapple, BCU Commander for South West London, this week where I will ask what further steps can be taken to tackle crime in the local area, we would also be grateful for the opportunity to have a meeting with yourself and anyone else responsible for policing resources to explore ways of reassuring and, ultimately, keeping safe our constituents.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Olney*

Sarah Olney,  
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park

Munira Wilson,  
Member of Parliament for Twickenham

Gareth Roberts,  
Leader of Richmond Council