



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Our Ref: 2015080000447

Date 1 September 2015

Mr Steve Garelick
Secretary, GMB Professional Drivers
G56 Branch
GMB London Region
Thorne House
152 Brent Street
LONDON NW4 2DP

Craig Mackey QPM
Deputy Commissioner of Police of the
Metropolis
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

Tel: 101

www.met.police.uk

Dear Mr Garelick

Thank you for your letter regarding the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

I can confirm that the MPS do have some staffing issues which have combined with a 10% increase in work sent from the DBS to create a backlog of disclosure cases which unfortunately has caused delays.

A 'Gold Group' of senior directors, led at Management Board level, was set up at the beginning of June to recover the staffing position, and hence the Work in Progress (WIP) caseload, as quickly as possible. You will of course appreciate that these are not basic administrative roles. Staff are making decisions about the disclosure of information that directly impacts children and vulnerable adults and those who seek to work with them. Staff require three months' training and supervision by current, experienced staff to be fully productive even at the basic level. It is not possible to simply recruit large numbers of agency staff to resolve the backlog.

The Group have initiated a series of actions including:

- Exploring all options for short term support from within other areas of MPS
- Internal and external (permanent and agency) recruitment campaigns, geographically targeted due to the move of the unit to Sidcup in advance of the closure of New Scotland Yard (NSY).
- A campaign to recruit an evening team in Sidcup, to both tackle the backlog and increase resilience in the future to manage the increased workload from DBS - up to 20 people.

- Arranging that those who cannot move to Sidcup can be accommodated at NSY until mid-2016 as a satellite team. This team will be supplemented with additional agency staff. We have boosted the rates we pay agency staff to increase numbers.

It is worth noting that, even with the current staff shortage, the unit has got very close to the original DBS forecast caseload. Clearly the additional 30,000 (10%) cases has created something of a perfect storm, but we are working closely with DBS on the resources needed to both manage the new volume levels and to clear the WIP cases.

Please be assured that the MPS is taking the position very seriously and working hard to bring the WIP caseload back to acceptable levels.

Yours sincerely



Craig Mackey
Deputy Commissioner