



**Cressida Dick**  
**Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis**

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Dear Friends,

All former officers and staff of the Metropolitan Police Service will know first-hand that in our history we have faced many challenging situations and times. Now we find ourselves in an unprecedented situation as we respond to the ongoing outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whilst no one knows for how long we will have to respond to this situation, we do know that it will not be a swift resolution.

I am intensely aware that some former colleagues will be self-isolating due to age or vulnerability, or because former colleagues or members of their household are suffering from the symptoms of COVID-19. I hope that everyone will stay as safe and as healthy as possible throughout this national emergency, following the Government guidance, getting support where needed, and looking out for each other. Sadly, I know that some have already suffered, and others will be affected by this dreadful virus. I want to emphasise that the Met is not only here for London but we are also here for our former colleagues - and each and every one of you will always remain valued members of the Met Police Family.

I feel so proud of all the men and women in the Met who continue to work around the clock to keep people safe and deliver our core policing functions. Beyond COVID-19, you will be aware that bearing down on violent crime has been the Met's number one priority, particularly where it affects young people under the age of 25. Despite the challenges, colleagues have continued to take violent criminals off the streets of London, arresting more than 800 people last week in a national anti-knife crime initiative. All this at a time when even more so than usual, people are watching to see how we respond and in particular how we explain and enforce the new COVID-19 Regulations. Met officers are out and about every day, talking to people, explaining, engaging and if needing to – enforcing. I'm very proud of the way they have been going about that, and I am grateful to the public in general for complying with these measures.

I have asked former colleagues who retired in the last five years to consider, if they are able, to re-join us as police officers, special constables or volunteers. The response has been inspiring with over 300 applications in the first week. Already we have ten former colleagues starting with us this week. Unfortunately, some former officers received letters with the wrong names, in an error I deeply regret and for which I am writing to all those colleagues affected to apologise.

I am not surprised by the number who want to come back and help us keep London safe at this time, but I am incredibly grateful to them. The desire to serve the public and support the Met runs deep in all police officers and staff – past and present, and no one will understand better the challenges faced by colleagues in the current climate. I also understand that not everyone will be able to help in this way. For some this will be because they simply are unable to and for others because it is not the right thing for them and their families at this time. Former

colleagues can still help in other ways, in particular by amplifying the messages of the Met and the wider policing family to networks of family and friends, and also helping where able to support others in local communities.

We do not yet know how this emergency will develop over the coming weeks. But the Met is extremely resilient and we are providing an excellent service in these difficult times. I am determined that we continue to do that as far as we reasonably can. Former colleagues will know better than most that the Met spends all day, every day responding to different requirements and demands. We flex, we surge, but we are here. We will continue to deal with violent crime and all the other things that concern Londoners, and we will do our best to keep our public safe just as everyone who served in the Met did in their service to London.

To all NARPO colleagues – the current Met team and its Commissioner send you every good wish.

We are able to respond well to the current challenges because of the learning and skills built up over generations. Our values, history and the people who have gone before us, allow the Met to be resilient in the face of major incidents and extraordinary challenges. Thank you for your contribution.

Stay safe and, as far as you are able, look after your NARPO colleagues and their families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cressida Dick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Cressida Dick**  
**Commissioner**