

LONDON POLICING ETHICS PANEL

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Chair: Dr Suzanne Shale
Members: Professor Leif Wenar, Dr Priya Singh, Professor Deborah Bowman

Rt Hon Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

19 December 2017

Dear Sadiq,

London Policing Ethics Panel Work Plan 2017-18

The newly constituted London Policing Ethics Panel (LPEP) has now had two full meetings and has had the opportunity to agree the areas of work we would like to focus on over the coming year.

We will be spending much of the coming months working with the Metropolitan Police Service and others to develop a rounded view of policing, and the challenges facing officers, in London. I have invited Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Martin of the MPS and Professor Ben Bradford, the inaugural director of the Institute for Global City Policing to attend meetings as observers, in order to support our work.

I propose two key areas of work which address current pressing issues facing the MPS. First, we will look at digital policing within the MPS. Our view is that the key issue is how digital technologies facilitate higher degrees of surveillance and more extensive data searching capabilities and that these have the scope to affect policing by consent. While good use of information technologies has the potential to contribute to public safety, these also raise questions about privacy, and potential differential impact on London's residents and visitors.

We will seek to develop a set of general recommendations, and to use facial recognition software as a 'worked example' to illustrate these. This will serve a dual purpose of providing recommendations of principle for future technological innovation, as well as addressing immediate concerns around facial recognition.

As our second area of investigation we will look at prioritisation within the MPS, specifically in the context of rising and changing demand and reductions in budgets. This will look at the priorities set out in your Police and Crime Plan, as well as the

other demands facing the MPS and explore the ethical dilemmas facing officers as they make decisions at a strategic and operational level about what to prioritise and, consequently, deprioritise.

In addition to these important areas, we will be supportive of the work the MPS itself has underway to develop and share ethical expertise within the organisation, as well as providing an opportunity for ethical reflection with those making decisions about misconduct within the force.

My fellow panellists and I are looking forward to working with the Metropolitan Police, who have had sight of this proposed work plan, and your Office for Policing and Crime as we seek to grapple with the important issues of ethics in policing in order to ensure that the best ethical framework is in place across the force.

I look forward to receiving your views on this work, and discussing this programme with you and your Deputy Mayor, in due course. Once the programme of work has been agreed, LPEP will discuss ways to promote our work with the wider London public.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Shale" followed by a small flourish and a period.

Dr. Suzanne Shale
Chair, London Policing Ethics Panel

Cc Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Cressida Dick CBE QPM, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police