

22nd December 2025

Dear Communities of Brent, Harrow & Barnet,

I previously shared my intention of writing regularly and as we approach the festive season I thought it was an opportune time to update you with the second of my open letters.

More Trust:

I recently wrote to you in respect of the horrific terror attack in Sydney, Australia. I recognise the impact this event will have across communities in North West London and we have seen an increased policing presence to reassure communities over the last week. In addition, on Wednesday the Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, together with Chief Constable Sir Stephen Watson of Greater Manchester Police, issued a joint statement in response to mounting concerns and recent events. They said:

“We know communities are concerned about placards and chants such as ‘globalise the intifada’, and those using it at future protests or in a targeted way should expect the Met and GMP to take action. Violent acts have taken place, the context has changed – words have meaning and consequence. We will act decisively and make arrests.”

These words underline a renewed posture by both forces to tackle intimidation, hate speech, and threats proactively - reflecting the seriousness with which we view the protection of all communities.

Less Crime:

Across Brent, Harrow and Barnet we have seen significant progress in tackling crime and improving outcomes for victims. Burglary has reduced by 9.3% over the past 12 months, reflecting the impact of targeted prevention and enforcement activity. At the same time, positive outcomes for burglary offences – those generally resulting in charges - have risen by 5.4%, demonstrating our commitment to holding offenders accountable. Public order offences have reduced by 5.9%, and hate crime is down by 3.5% illustrating the dedication and hard work of officers and staff across our three boroughs. These improvements underline our shared determination to make communities safer and deliver justice for victims.

The lead-up to Christmas is a busy and exciting time, but it can also present opportunities for criminals. Please take a few simple steps to protect yourself and your property:

- At home: Keep doors and windows locked when you go out. Avoid leaving gifts in view of windows and consider using timers for lights if you're out.
- When shopping: Keep bags zipped and valuables secure. Be alert in crowded places and never leave purchases unattended in vehicles.
- Online: Use trusted websites, avoid clicking on suspicious links, and never share personal or banking details unnecessarily.
- Deliveries: If ordering online, track parcels and consider safe delivery options to avoid theft.

You can find more advice on our website or by speaking to your local neighbourhood officers.





High Standards:

Policing is a complex and demanding role. Every day, our officers face situations that can change in an instant, requiring split-second decisions to protect lives and keep people safe. While these moments can be challenging, I am remarkably proud of the professionalism and courage shown by our teams in responding to emergencies and preventing harm. Some of the great things our officers have dealt with since my last letter include:

- Police received multiple reports early one weekday of a man armed with a knife and behaving erratically along Southway, Wembley. CCTV confirmed the male was naked and carrying a large blade, posing an immediate danger to the public. Local taser-equipped officers were first on scene and, acting decisively and without hesitation, challenged the suspect, who was safely detained without injury. Their quick actions prevented what could have been a serious or fatal incident.
- A traffic enforcement operation on Finchley High Road, during which officers identified a high-risk suspect who had breached their probation licence and was wanted on a recall to prison. Thanks to the officers' quick observations and the swift response from the team, the individual – who is a prolific and high-harm domestic abuse offender – was arrested and returned to prison. This decisive action demonstrates the vigilance and teamwork that keep our communities safe.
- Wealdstone neighbourhood officers recently secured a custodial sentence for a prolific offender who breached his Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). The individual, with a history of violent offences, was arrested after being caught shoplifting in Asda on Wealdstone High Street – a location he was explicitly banned from under the terms of his CBO. Officers acted swiftly following reports of the breach, leading to his arrest, charge, and appearance before magistrates, where he received a 10-week custodial sentence. This outcome again reinforces our commitment to protecting local businesses and the community from repeat offenders.

These examples reflect the commitment of our teams in tackling crime and keeping you safe.

Lastly, we launched Met Engage earlier this year, a free messaging service that keeps you informed about what's happening in your area. This includes crime updates, safety advice, and news from your local neighbourhood team. It also allows you to share concerns directly with us. I encourage you to sign up at: www.MetEngage.co.uk.

It is important to me that you feel informed and reassured about policing in Brent, Harrow & Barnet. We remain committed to transparency, safety, and partnership, and I look forward to sharing further updates with you in the new year.

Kind regards,

Luke Williams

Detective Chief Superintendent

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