

15th August 2025

Dear Communities of Brent, Harrow & Barnet,

I hope this open letter will reach many of the residents and visitors to Brent, Harrow & Barnet as it provides an opportunity for me to address you on matters affecting local policing. I am the new Basic Command Unit (BCU) Commander with the privilege of leading policing in the North West BCU which fights crime, keeps people safe and creates environments where people feel safe across Brent, Harrow & Barnet. I hope to be in a position to share similar open letters with you at regular intervals in the future and plan to use these to update on what policing in your local area is doing to fight crime and keep you safe.

I have recently joined the BCU from working elsewhere in the Met and come from a predominantly detective background. This is the second time I have worked in Brent & Harrow as I was stationed here a number of years ago in the Met's Child Abuse Investigation Team. I am tremendously passionate about the police's role in keeping the public safe and you will hear more from me in the coming months about how policing locally will continue to do this.

We have recently published a draft of the second phase of A New Met for London which is our plan for the next three years and the next step in our mission of More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards. You can find the plan, and the link to provide feedback, here: [A New Met for London | Metropolitan Police](#). To have the greatest positive impact on reducing crime and keeping the public safe we need to focus our energy where it can be most effective. At the North West we are actively considering how we might do this and I look forward to being able to update on that in due course.

Since joining the BCU I have been humbled by the extraordinarily brave, compassionate and selfless acts by some of our people. I have seen officers save lives by evacuating a row of shops and residential premises which were on fire. This was an especially sobering moment when the fire spread and set light to properties that had been evacuated moments earlier. I have also seen neighbourhood officers passionate about crimefighting in their communities with one of our teams arresting 83 individuals over the last month and another one targeting those supplying drugs and causing misery in our communities. As part of our summer plan we have targeted those who continue to offend and a recent shoplifting operation saw prolific offenders charged with tens of offences.

We recently launched Met Engage, a free messaging services that keeps you connected with what's happening in your area. This might include crime updates, safety advice or news from your local neighbourhood team. It also allows you to tell us what's concerning you so we can take action on the things that really matter to you. I encourage you to sign up, here: www.MetEngage.co.uk.

It is really important to me that you feel up-to-speed with the issues affecting policing locally here in the North West so I plan to share information in a similar way on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Williams
Detective Chief Superintendent
NW BCU COMMANDER