

# Chief Constables' Council

## MP Security – Cover Note

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Author: Neil Basu  
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### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This note accompanies the letter from DAC Neil Basu to all Chief Constables dated 30 June 2016. The letter requests your support in attempting to meet the expectations of MPs across the country. All annexes referred to in the letter can be found on ChiefsNet.



Specialist Operations

**TOTAL POLICING** Deputy Assistant

Commissioner

**Specialist  
Operations  
Headquarters**

All Chief Constables

1806 Tower Block  
New Scotland Yard  
10 Broadway  
London  
SW1H 0BG

Telephone:  
\*\*\*\*\*S31  
Facsimile:  
Email:  
\*\*\*\*\*S31@met.pn  
n.police.uk [www.m  
et.police.u.k](http://www.met.police.u.k)  
Our ref:  
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SOHQ 30th June  
2016

Dear Chief Constable

MP Security - Operation Bridger

Following the murder of Jo Cox MP on 16th June, Mark Rowley wrote to you on 18th June regarding Operation Bridger - our national plan for providing MPs with security advice. On 20th June many Members of Parliament met with the Home Secretary, the Leader of the House of Commons, Parliamentary Authorities, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) and Police, to address their safety and security concerns. Police representation included Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Mark Rowley (ACSO), DCS Scott Wilson (National Co-ordinator Protect and Prepare) and Chief Supt Jane Johnson OCU Commander of Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection (PaDP).

A further meeting took place on 22nd June, chaired by the Home Office (OSCT) and the results of both meetings were distilled into a letter to all MPs - Annex A. This letter outlined what steps would be taken, given that there is real anxiety and a low level of confidence that the authorities are addressing their protection. Mark Rowley will be addressing Chief Constables Council on 13th July on this issue.

I am now asking for your support in attempting to meet MPs reasonable and proportionate expectations, both now and in the future. I think we have to recognise that their role does present unique vulnerabilities and risk if they are to continue to practice open and transparent democracy by being available to their constituents. It is important that we retain the confidence of MPs. This will include the way Parliament itself provides security and advice, with our role ensuring we provide consistent quality of service to the reporting and investigation of crime and incidents, and an ability to identify linked series and emerging threats.

I respectfully ask therefore, that you have the following measures implemented to your satisfaction.

1. Ensure that you or your local senior leaders have made contact with your MPs and that building a personal relationship is considered as important stakeholder management. Feedback from MPs is that this is not being consistently applied across the UK and that even following the recent advisory guidance to implement Operation Bridger the contact and follow-up has been variable.

2. Communicate relevant measures from Annexes B and C to the teams you have tasked to deliver the Operation Bridger service.
3. Encourage your MPs to take advantage of the free security options in the standard IPSA funded security package, provided to them again on 27th June. It now includes a dedicated email link which will give them access to qualified private sector security companies within 48 hours. I have attached a sheet of questions frequently asked by MPs to help you - Annex D.
4. Strongly encourage MPs to report all crimes, incidents or communications of concern in the first instance through 999 or 101, or to their local command team if the relationship is strong. Please ensure it is recorded as a crime on your force systems referencing Operation Bridger.
5. MPs spend a significant percentage of their time at Westminster and residing in London. It is therefore recognised that in many non-urgent cases they may, for convenience want a single point of contact to report matters that concern them or to receive advice. Within PaDP in the MPS a new unit is currently being proposed to meet this need. The Parliamentary Liaison and Investigation Team (PLaIT) will be a 24/7 contact point where details of non-urgent matters can be initially investigated, collated and distributed to appropriate units nationally for action. They will also be able to signpost MPs to access Operation Bridger security options. The PLaIT is envisaged to be a support service which intends to maximise MP engagement. It does not, nor does it seek to, assume primacy for matters that rightly rest in your own Force areas.
7. It is important that you ensure your force is submitting its return on reported crimes and incidents against MPs using the unmodified excel spreadsheet supplied by NCTPOC - Annex C. Please ensure this spreadsheet is not altered in any way. This was a tasking in May sent on my behalf by ACC Alan Barr Deputy Senior National Co-ordinator.

Attached at Annex B is an explanation of what is required and why. Due to a lack of force engagement with MPs we have had to extend the date for response to 22nd July. This tasking was necessary to start a process of force quarterly returns that would confirm our engagement with MPs and importantly allow us to analyse crimes and incidents to identify patterns of repeat offenders or repeat victims across force boundaries.

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I would appreciate your push to get these returns completed as soon as possible as the response to date has been poor. AC Rowley will take the collated data received from forces so far and present at Chief Council on 13th July 2016.

8. The Commissioner agreed to review crimes against MPs where there was a threat of sexual violence, to ensure that they were thoroughly investigated due to a number of direct complaints from some MPs that they were not being taken seriously. In London, we will be looking to identify all such crimes and have them reviewed. Can I urge you to do the same and to report your findings separately to \*\*\*\*\*S23. You may wish to appoint a lead in your force review teams to do this.


9. Lastly, can I ask you to remind your teams of our responsibilities towards MPs under Operation Bridger.

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It also requires call handlers, telephone investigation teams, responding officers, investigators, crime managers and other supervisors to understand what Operation Bridger is, and the requirement to record all incidents against MPs as a crime. Please remind your teams, including victim support units, to refer relevant cases where the offender is suspected of suffering from mental health issues to FTAC for diversion.

Thank you for your close attention to this situation. Following the tragedy of Jo Cox's murder, the measures we and our Parliamentary security colleagues now take to protect our elected officials are being debated and scrutinised in Cabinet. Your support will help us retain their confidence. Our current press lines are attached at Annex E. I will keep you informed on how matters progress.

Yours Sincerely



Neil Basu QPM  
**Deputy Assistant  
Commissioner Specialist  
Operations**