

THE RT HON BORIS JOHNSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime 0207 219 4682
Public Access Consultation
MOPAC
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

5 October 2017

Dear Sophie,

Submission to the Consultation on the draft Public Access and Engagement Strategy

I am responding as the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. I strongly believe the proposals contained within the draft Public Access and Engagement Strategy to limit the number of police stations to one per borough would have a significant and negative effect on the safety of my constituents and the borough of Hillingdon.

Hillingdon is the second largest borough in London. Its geography and size is not accounted for in these proposals and an arbitrary figure of one station per borough does not suit all areas.

As will be clear from my submission in addition to a front desk north of the A40 at Ruislip, I firmly believe Uxbridge Police Station is a vital resource and best placed to serve all residents in Hillingdon. The current proposal, leaving Hayes as the sole police station in the borough is impractical and puts the safety of my constituents and the local area at risk.

Uxbridge Police Station is located near to the busy high street, opposite Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, close to council offices and within walking distance of an Underground station and bus station. Its prominent location in the centre of Uxbridge provides a strategic base for the police to operate from, with access to the A40. Comparatively, Hayes Police Station is outside of the centre of Hayes, with little public transport, no public parking and not currently fit for purpose. As you may be aware, travelling north-south in Hillingdon is problematic. I am deeply concerned about the effect of closing Uxbridge Police Station on response times. As MOPAC itself has alluded to, it will take over an hour to reach parts of the borough. If these proposals are approved, many of my constituents will be able to access Scotland Yard quicker than their local police station. This is clearly unacceptable.

Having spoken with the London Borough of Hillingdon and having received representations from Residents Associations and many constituents, I am certain this community would be best served keeping Uxbridge Police Station open. Whilst I do not agree that 'footfall' should be the sole reason for closure, from the data provided, Uxbridge has more than double the number of crimes recorded daily at the front counter than in Hayes. I believe the proposal for Hillingdon is designed simply on cost and is not considering the safety of residents or the effectiveness of the police service.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR UXBRIDGE AND SOUTH RUISLIP

The local police team in Hillingdon, led by the Borough Commander, should be commended on the service they provide and the level of engagement with the local community. However, I would be worried about their ability to continue to provide this level of service should these changes go ahead. Time will be lost travelling from Hayes and no assurance has been provided with regard to the two response cars for the north of the borough.

Furthermore, I would question the capability of Hayes Police Station to meet the current needs of Hillingdon residents. I believe there will be significant hidden costs of the closure of Uxbridge Police Station, with the need to bring Hayes Police Station up to the required standard and the increased travel time to the Magistrates' Court located opposite Uxbridge Police Station. I would also question, where the staff currently based at Uxbridge Police Station are to be relocated to?

In short, these proposals will leave my constituents without easy access to any police station and the continued operation of Uxbridge Police Station is imperative for the safety of the area.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Boris Johnson MP