



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Cressida Dick CBE QPM

Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service
Victoria Embankment
Westminster
London, SW1A 2JL

6 April 2020

Dear Commissioner,

We all strongly support the public health measures that the government has put in place to protect the NHS and save lives and I'm grateful to all your officers for the part they are playing in encouraging everyone to adhere to the guidance about staying home except for limited outside exercise.

Obviously the police have a role to play in such unprecedented circumstances which goes wider than enforcing the criminal law. We have seen police tape preventing the use of park benches and police using surveillance to identify people who are breaching the guidance not to drive to beauty spots.

I think it would be helpful if you could be clear about the instructions which have been issued to your officers about their role in parks and public spaces during this crisis. Could you please send me the Guidance which you have issued to your Borough Commanders or to individual officers.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights