



Home Office

Rt Hon Dame Diana
Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for
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Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22nd July 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

Draft letter to HASC – Publication of Guidance for Police Vetting Clearance withdrawals

Today, the Government has published statutory guidance - *Home Office Guidance on the Withdrawal of Police Vetting Clearance: Statutory Guidance on the police vetting withdrawal and dismissal process* - to support operationalisation of the Police (Vetting) Regulations 2025. This guidance is issued pursuant to s87 and s87A of the Police Act 1996.

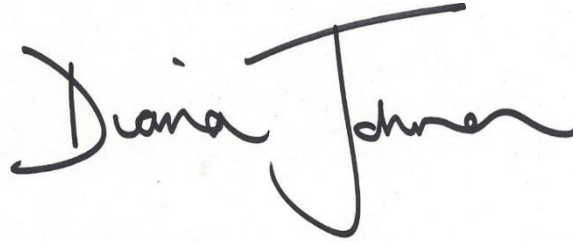
In February this year, the High Court ruled that the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS's) processes to withdraw vetting clearance from Sergeant Lino Di Maria was unlawful. Though the court's findings are subject to an appeal, this determination highlighted the, then, absence of a bespoke regulatory route setting out how officers unable to hold vetting clearance and are therefore unfit to serve, can be removed from policing. To address this gap, the Police (Vetting) Regulations 2025 were laid in Parliament on 23 April and came into force on 14 May. The Regulations also establish a duty for officers to hold and maintain vetting clearance.

To support the use of the regulations, we have developed this guidance which provides details on the obligations for relevant persons involved in the vetting clearance withdrawal process, including for officers who are subject to withdrawal assessments. We have engaged with members of the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales (PABEW) as part of the development of this guidance and have considered their feedback.

In addition to this, the Government will also be introducing a set of key mandatory standards on vetting later this year, which will further assert the importance of public safety. These will be achieved via regulations.

The Home Secretary and I are keen for forces to remove unfit officers from policing as efficiently and effectively as possible. To support this, it has been essential to develop this guidance and make it available to policing practitioners as soon as possible. A copy of this letter and the guidance will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diana Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' for the surname.

The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson