

Ms Alison Mutch OBE  
HM Senior Coroner  
South Manchester Coroner's Office  
1 Mount Tabor Street  
Stockport  
SK1 3AG

10 October 2019

Dear Madam

**Inquest into the Death of Sophie Louise Lyons: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths  
Response of Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) responds to the matters of concern contained within the above report.

The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides the statutory framework for combined authorities. A combined authority for an area is established by way of statutory order under the 2009 Act, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 coming into force on 1 April 2011.

Initially the GMCA's functions were limited to transport, economic development and regeneration in accordance with the original scope of the 2009 Act.

The 2009 Act was amended in 2016 to make provision for mayors to be elected in combined authority areas (mayoral combined authority), to enable the secretary of state to confer a greater range of functions on combined authorities and for the secretary of state to provide for functions to be exercisable only by the mayor.

Since 2017 additional functions have been conferred on the GMCA by way specific statutory orders. The functions of the GMCA/Mayor of relevance to this Inquest are limited to Mayoral police and crime commissioner functions.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayor) Order 2017 provides for the Mayor for Greater Manchester to be treated, as a police and crime commissioner for the purposes of all police and crime commissioner enactments.

The principal functions of a police and crime commissioner under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 are to:

- secure an efficient and effective police for their area;

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- appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
- set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan;
- set the force budget and determine the precept;
- contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.

In respect of PCC functions, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime are held to account by the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel which is a joint committee of the ten constituent councils in Greater Manchester.

The Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel has agreed to the establishment of the Police and Crime Structure with the following meetings at a Greater Manchester level:

- Police and Crime Panel
- Police and Crime Steering Group
- Police and Crime Leads Group

The overall role of Greater Manchester Police and Crime Leads and Steering groups is to oversee, drive improvements, work planning and share good practice at a Greater Manchester level, taking into account good practice from within and outside of Greater Manchester. The breadth of work of the groups reflect that of each districts Community Safety Partnership. I attach a copy of the terms of reference for the Steering Group and Leads Group.

The GMCA assists with the administration of the police and crime structure.

On 26 June 2019, the Police and Crime Leads Group received a report from Jane Le Fevre, Corporate Director Governance and Community Strategy, Trafford Council on car cruising in Trafford Park and the outcome of the inquest into the death of Sophie Lyons.

GM Police and Crime Leads were provided with information on the following:

- The background to car cruising in Trafford
- The partnership activity in support of Public Spaces Protection Orders since their introduction in February 2017
- The work ongoing work undertaken since the tragic incident on 31 May 2018
- The outcome of the Coronial Proceedings
- The implications for GM and potential next steps

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Consideration was given to the use by the district councils of their powers to make and enforce Public Spaces Protection Orders and it was agreed that a coordinated approach across Greater Manchester was necessary.

Consideration was also given to the work of GMP and their conclusion that the GMP response to car cruising required a force-wide plan. It was reported that despite the trigger plan introduced in 2017, police districts had tended to implement plans in their own areas which at times had simply displaced the issue from one area to another. There was support to develop an overarching GM Enforcement Prevention Intelligence (EPIC) Plan and a GMP tactical lead Inspector had been appointed. A number of strategic meetings had been held at which all GMP districts were represented and AGMA Civil Contingencies Resilience Unit.

Whilst the Mayor's functions include holding the Chief Constable to account, the Chief Constable has operational independence and total discretion on decisions concerning the configuration and organisation of policing resources or whether not, to deploy police officers. The powers in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders are vested solely in the district councils.

In conclusion, whilst the Mayor/GMCA has a limited role, function and sphere of influence in this subject matter, the need for a coordinated approach is recognised across Greater Manchester and developments are in train as described above.

I trust that this response addresses the concerns identified and I hope it is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Eamonn Boylan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) &**  
**Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)**

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