

A MESSAGE FROM BCU COMMANDER, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HELEN HARPER



Dear all,

Statement from the Met Commissioner

Yesterday the National Police Chiefs Council representing senior police officers across the UK released a statement on recent events in the US. The Commissioner said:

“Like everyone we were appalled by the images of George Floyd losing his life. Justice and accountability must follow.

“We’ve also been horrified at the violence and destruction in so many US cities since. Our hearts go out to all concerned.

“I recognise feelings are also running high in London and this comes at a difficult time for our city with the challenges of lockdown, and the fears for health, jobs and the economy.

“I want to reassure the public of London that we will continue with our tradition of policing using the minimum force necessary and of working as closely as possible with our communities. Met officers and staff are highly professional, well trained and restrained. They are also very highly scrutinised.

“Policing is complex and challenging. We are always learning and improving and welcome the scrutiny.

“In the coming days and weeks we will work even more closely with our communities, listening sensitively to their concerns, then responding fairly, with courage and compassion. We will be seeking at all times to prevent violence, and keep people safe. Everyone wants to keep our streets safe and calm.

Protests in London yesterday

You will all have seen the protest activity in London yesterday, where people gathered to have their voices heard on black lives matter issues.

We always work to balance the rights of protestors with those of the wider community and to manage protest in the most proportionate way we can. We absolutely understand the right to lawful protest is a key part of any democracy, and yesterday we had an appropriate policing plan in place to balance the safety of protestors with their desire to protest.

Where possible, we also sought to remind those participating that Coronavirus remains a deadly disease and urged people to remain socially distanced to prevent its spread and to work with officers at this challenging time.

As you may have read, there were a number of arrests yesterday and sadly some officers were injured. If you are aware of anyone in your community intending to protest on the weekend, please join with us in asking them to protest peacefully so that their voices can be properly heard.

Kindest regards



Helen

BCU Commander Central West BCU and Royal Parks