



Home Office

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson
DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing and
Crime Prevention
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

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

17 July 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 1 July regarding the Government's response to the Committee's recent report into the policing response to the 2024 summer disorder. As you have requested, I am pleased to set out the further information below.

You asked about current plans to build police capability for using social media intelligence at force and national levels. We are carefully considering recommendations made by the Committee and HMICFRS in this area, including building a National Internet Intelligence Investigations team as part of the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC).

This team will provide a national capability to monitor social media intelligence and advise on its use to inform local operational decision making. This will be a dedicated function at a national level for exploiting internet intelligence to help local forces manage public safety threats and risks. Funding for this capability beyond 25/26 will need to be considered in line with future funding priorities but I am confident that as a first step, this new central team will help build capability across forces to maximise social media intelligence.

Whilst not directly relevant to the issues raised in your letter, I also thought it might be helpful to mention the implementation of the Online Safety Act. As you will know, that is a key plank to the government's efforts to ensure the online world is safer for the public to use. The Online Safety Act requires platforms to remove illegal content. These duties were not in effect last summer, but came into force in March. In addition, platforms will also have to protect children from encountering harmful content, including hate and abuse online when those provisions come into force later this month.

The major social media platforms have specific channels for reporting activity to law enforcement agencies and we will support forces to ensure they are taking effective action on those reports as appropriate.

You might also wish to note that the Home Secretary has recently written to the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Public Order and Public Safety asking that he commence work to recommend potential changes to the public order content of the Strategic Policing Requirement. We expect to receive his recommendations by the end of this month and will then urgently consider next steps.

We will continue to give the police the tools they need to tackle today's public order challenges and ensure safety on our streets, and I look forward to setting out further detail in the upcoming Police Reform White Paper.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime Prevention