

Making London Safer

Manifesto
2008

Mayor Boris Johnson

Providing strong leadership

Pledge

I will chair the Metropolitan Police Authority (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 9).

I will stand up against excessive form-filling, and support the scrapping of the stop and account form, lobbying the government hard for its removal (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 9).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

I became the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority shortly after my election in May 2008.

Once the direction of London policing had been set I stood down from this role in January 2010 and promoted my Deputy, elected Assembly member, Kit Malthouse, preserving democratic accountability (BBC News Online, *Boris Johnson steps down from police authority*, 27 January 2010).

A Revised Approach

The MPA has since been replaced by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) which is headed by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. This change means that both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor will be even more accountable to Londoners for police performance, setting local priorities and allocating resources (GLA Website, *About MOPC*).

When we appointed the new Met Commissioner, I made it clear that this would be someone who has a clear strategy for tackling gang violence and youth crime and restoring pride in our great city. (BBC News Online, *Bernard Hogan-Howe new Metropolitan Police commissioner*, 27 September 2011)

As a result of my personal lead, crime has fallen in London by 10.6 per cent, robberies are down 16.7 per cent and murders have decreased by 24.4 per cent (MPS statistics, Comparing 44 months of Ken Livingstone September 2004 – April 2008 with 44 months of Boris Johnson May 2008 - December 2011).

Promise delivered.

I have been focused on getting police officers out from behind their desks onto the street. In the two years from May 2008 to May 2010 the Met took 209 forms out of use (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 19 May 2010).

In March 2011 the Government gave police forces the option to scrap the stop and account form (Home Office Website, *Stop and search*). The Met has however decided to continue using the stop and account form after an MPA consultation found robust support for recording "stop and account" to make sure the process was both transparent and accountable (The Guardian, *Met police will retain recording of "stop and account" street encounters*, 23 September 2011).

From January 2009 a shorter revised stop and search was launched, with the time it takes to complete reduced from 8-10 minutes to 3-5 minutes. (MPA, *A Practical Guide to stop and search community monitoring groups*, August 2009).

I will expect PCSOs to take some of the administrative burden from police officers, so more can get out on streets (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 9).

Promised delivered.

In 2009 I introduced Operation Herald, a scheme focused on cutting administrative tasks and paperwork for London's police officers (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 July 2010).

A revised approach.

The scheme found that many of the administrative tasks could be cut altogether or done by civilian staff, rather than PCSOs, thus enabling more police presence on the streets.

Operation Herald moved clerical duties away from trained police officers to general staff, put more police on the front line and achieved efficiencies of 451 positions (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 July 2010).

We continue to work to get more officers out on the streets. There will be 1,000 more police officers than in 2008 by May 2012 (GLA, *The Mayors Consultation Budget*, 22 December 2011, p 1).

There are now 630 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, 1 for each of London's 624 neighbourhood wards, plus 5 more for the city of Westminster and 1 more for Crystal Palace where three boroughs meet. These are made up of at least 2 Police Constables and 3 PCSOs. There are over 4,100 police officers dedicated to neighbourhood policing (MPS Website, *Safer Neighbourhoods*).

Making trains, buses and stations safer

Pledge

I will require under 18s who have had their free bus travel withdrawn for anti-social behaviour to earn it back through voluntary and community service (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 13).

Double the strength of Safer Transport Teams, by releasing funding for approximately 440 extra PCSOs to patrol the buses and 50 more fully-warranted British Transport Police officers to patrol the worst suburban stations.

I will make buses safer by running a trial of live CCTV (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 13).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

Launched in August 2009, Payback London scheme requires under 18s who have their free bus travel withdrawn to earn it back through community work (TfL Press Release, *Under 18s free travel rules begin*, 1 June 2008).

I am pleased that we have used this scheme to show to young people the importance of caring for their city – clearing graffiti, picking up litter, and helping community schemes.

10,068 individuals have had their passes withdrawn since 2009 (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

Promise delivered.

I prioritised safety on London's public transport. An extra 440 uniformed officers were recruited to the Safer Transport Teams (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 16 July 2008).

There are now an extra 50 Transport Police on the Overground and particularly outer London stations (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 21 May 2009).

In 2008, I also banned alcohol on the Tube (TfL, Press Release, *Alcohol ban comes into force on the Tube, trams and buses from this Sunday*, 1 June, 30 May 2008).

Bus crime has decreased by 30 per cent during my term (MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012. Comparing 45 months of Ken Livingstone (August 2004 – April 2008) with 45 months of Boris Johnson (May 2008 – January 2012).

Promise delivered.

I launched a trial of live CCTV on 21 buses in October 2008.

The trial found that live CCTV provided no additional benefit and there are no plans to roll it out (BBC News Online, *Live CCTV on buses to be tested*, 20 October 2008, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 17 March 2010).

I will focus on reducing fare evasion by directing the MPA and TfL to investigate giving Revenue Protection Inspectors more powers (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 13).

Promise delivered.

A trial giving a team of Revenue Protection Inspectors additional powers started in March 2010 (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 19 May 2010).

Subsequently we launched the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to assist these Revenue Protection Inspectors in dealing with a range of anti-social behaviour on the bus network. The CSAS powers mean that Inspectors can collect information and issue Fixed Penalty Notices (TfL Board, *Commissioner's Report*, 29 June 2011)

TfL have now enhanced 50 Revenue Protection staff on London's bus network with additional powers, granted by the MPS under the CSAS scheme (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 6 November 2011).

Since May 2011, there have been 38 CSAS specific intelligence led deployments resulting in 640 penalty fares, 470 prosecutions, 45 CSAS related offences and 2 Penalty Notices for Disorder. (GLA website, *Keeping crime low on our transport system*)

There has been a significant reduction in fare evasion rates on the buses and Tube from their highest levels under Ken Livingstone in 2007 and 2004, which was 3.5% and 3.8% respectively. The current rate of fare evasion across the network is stable at 2.2 per cent (GLA, *Mayor answers to London*, 18 August 2011).

I consulted on increasing penalties for fare evasion, and as a result, TfL have this year increased fines from £50 to £80 (TfL Press Release, 16 February 2012).

My removal of the bendy buses will save around £7 million a year in reduced fare evasion (GLA Press Release, 9 December 2011).

Tackling knife and gun crimes

Pledge

I will make it a policing priority to tackle knife and gun crime and not accept defeat. I will drive out the culture of political targets that distort priorities (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 21).

I will provide funding for handheld scanners and knife arches to use at Tube and rail stations, and other large-scale public events (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 21).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

It is a priority of the new MOPC to tackle knife and gun crime (MOPC Website). At my direction, the Met introduced an intensified stop and search regime called Operation Blunt 2, and over 11,000 knives have been taken off the street since then (Mayor of London, *Mayor of London's Annual Report 2010-2011*, May 2011).

When we appointed the new Met Commissioner last year, I made it clear that this would be someone who has a clear strategy for tackling gang violence and youth crime and restoring pride in our great city. (BBC News Online, *Bernard Hogan-Howe new Metropolitan Police commissioner*, 27 September 2011)

Promise delivered.

I have provided funding for handheld scanners and knife arches to be used more, with £3.8m allocated to support the additional costs of Operation Blunt 2 for 2008/09 (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 19 May 2010, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 October 2008, Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 12 November 2008).

This has led to over 11,000 knives being taken off the street (Mayor of London, *Mayor of London's Annual Report 2010-2011*, May 2011).

We have also focused on large-scale public events. In 2011, police officers manned knife arches throughout the Notting Hill Carnival day at various underground stations across London, particularly those in and around the carnival procession route. (Metro, *Notting Hill Carnival's 'peaceful' start belies knife arches and 6,500 police*, 28 August 2011).

Londoners are noticing the benefits. Responses to surveys about the deployment of knife arches and screening equipment showed a figure of 79 per cent of pupils feeling more reassured through the use of knife arches at key locations on routes to schools. (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 12 November 2008)

I will direct the LDA to fund youth community groups that provide mentoring schemes (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 21).

Promise delivered.

The Mayor's Mentoring Programme will provide appropriately trained adult volunteer mentors for a minimum of 1,000 black boys aged 10-16 who may be at risk of offending in seven target boroughs in London (GLA Website, *Mentoring*).

To date £1.3million has been committed in the form of grant funding and the associated administrative costs of the small grants fund (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 23 March 2011).

I have also launched Team London which provides a conduit for volunteers and London's disadvantaged (Team London Website).

I will ring-fence part of the LDA budget specifically for community sports projects (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 21).

Promise delivered.

The Mayor's Sports Legacy Fund provides £15.5 million worth of funding, which have ring-fenced for community sports projects (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 September 2010, Mayor of London Press Release, *Mayor gives community sports facilities a boost with £1m cash injection*, 23 November 2011).

I will make designing out crime a key priority in the London Plan and the Mayor's Housing strategy to prevent creating poor-quality housing where crime flourishes (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 21).

Promise delivered.

The London Plan sets out my designing out crime policy, which calls on boroughs and others to create safe, secure and appropriately accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion (GLA, *The London Plan*, July 2011).

Our Housing Strategy also sets out that new homes and developments should be built to principles that design out crime risks (GLA, *Revised Housing Strategy*, December 2011).

Help the ignored victims of sexual violence

Pledge

I will provide stable, long-term funding to set up new Rape Crisis Centres in London (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 27).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

As part of my long term plan, three new Rape Crisis Centres opened in London in 2010, making four in total based in North, South, East and West London. (Mayor of London, *Press Release*, 8 March 2010).

15,882 victims of sexual abuse were helped with support, counselling and therapies at these four rape crisis centres in 2010- 2011 alone. (Mayor of London Press Release, *Mayor's Rape Crisis centres helping over 15,000 women*, 25 November 2011).¹

I have committed to continue to provide funding for the three new centres and the existing Croydon centre if re-elected (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 15 December 2010).

Demanding a police service accountable to you

Pledge

I will provide local neighbourhoods with New York-style crime maps, to enable residents to hold local police to account (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 30).

I will direct the MPA to ensure Borough Commanders hold monthly, open public meetings (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 30).

I will ask for regular meetings with the Home Secretary to ensure that Whitehall is listening to Londoners' concerns (Boris Johnson, *Making London Safer*, 2008, p. 12).

What has been achieved so far

Promise delivered.

My introduction of crime mapping has opened up local policing to residents, transforming the accountability of the Met (Metropolitan Police Service Website, *Crime Mapping*).

The Government launched a UK wide crime map website in early 2011 (Police UK Website).

Making progress.

Although monthly public meetings with the Police Borough Commander are not held in every borough, many boroughs hold some sort of public meeting, even if they are not monthly.

The most frequent and consistent of these are the quarterly consultative group meetings (Community and Police Engagement Group) where members of the public have the opportunity to question the Borough Commander (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011).

Promise delivered.

I regularly meet with the Home Secretary and Home Office ministers. My strong relationship with the Government has resulted in extra financial support for the Met, including £90 million to keep officer numbers high (Mayor of London, *Mayor's Reports 2008-2012*; GLA, *Mayor's Final Budget 2011-12*, February 2012; Evening Standard, *Met getting £90m to keep police numbers up on capital's streets*, 30 January 2012).