

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 July 2020 16:27
To: Police and Crime Panel <pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk>
Subject: Question ahead of 23rd July meeting: Operation Velour

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I would appreciate a question being posed to the Commissioner as it relates to the widely reported Operation Velour operational note.

In the note, it is clearly stated that should officers policing Black Lives Matter protests wish to do so, they are allowed to 'take a knee'. The operational note goes on to suggest that such a gesture may be welcomed positively by protestors.

Might the committee ask the Commissioner the following questions:

- Was the operational note's content appropriate considering the violent nature of some BLM protests displayed elsewhere?
- Why was taking a knee included as an option in an operational note given that operational notes are designed to ensure effective policing?
- If a 'positive response' is to be included as a component of operational notes, will the Police be signalling its support of other political or social movements? If so, which ones?
- Can the public continue to have confidence in a police force which enables its officers to engage in acts heavily associated with a movement which has called for its defunding?
- Can the public continue to have confidence in the police if it is so readily prepared to allow political acts while on duty?

The answers to these questions are important. The Police are supposed to be neutral arbiters upholding the rule of law without fear or favour. In this operational note, Hertfordshire Police would appear to undermine that perception.

It is important that our police is reflective and maintains good relations with all components of society. However, there are better ways to do that than by taking a knee while on duty.

Regards,

[REDACTED]