



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Bishop Mike Royal
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**Assistant Commissioner
Pippa Mills**

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Dear Bishop Mike Royal,

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about the arrests that were made inside Westminster Quaker House in March 2025. I have spoken to the senior police public order Commander for that evening, who was in charge of the operation, they have provided me with the following information.

I acknowledge the strength of feeling and concerns that Churches Together and your community have raised. It is important that I set out some wider context for this policing activity. There has been a number of large scale protests within London over the last few years. With any protest event, the police have obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 to ensure members of the public can discharge their right to protest peacefully whilst balancing the impact that the protest has on the safety and rights of the wider public. This is an ongoing and dynamic responsibility and at times police have used various powers to achieve this balance. The MPS recognises the importance of the right to protest.

However, we have a responsibility to intervene to prevent activity that crosses from protest into serious disruption and other criminality. Recent outcomes at court have demonstrated how seriously the judicial system takes this level of activity.

The MPS has no influence on where campaign groups are holding their planning meetings, and must therefore act accordingly in order to make arrests.

The action undertaken was proportionate, and given the nature of the location, particular attention was given to assessing potential impact of where the intervention took place.

As part of the operational consideration, the MPS ensured that there were no services taking place at that time, although other events coincided with the raid.

It represented the best opportunity to locate a number of Youth Demand members in one place, and seize evidence, and was therefore considered to be proportionate.

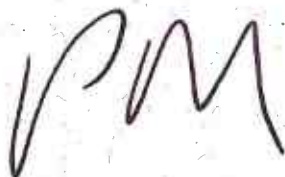
This was explained in detail at the time to members of the Quaker community. The decision to force entry was necessary in order to gain fast time access and secure evidence.

I also want to clarify that proactive policing is a key part of the strategy that we have in place to ensure that we limit criminal activity that can occur at protest events. With tough

financial choices on our horizon, it's important that we keep London safe, whilst having an awareness of the expenditure on policing resources.

We acknowledge the concerns that you have raised, I hope the above provides some of the wider context for the operational activity and our approach. Whilst we are satisfied that our action was reasonable and proportionate, we will reflect on the concerns you have expressed in the planning of future operations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'PM'.

Pippa Mills
Assistant Commissioner
Met Operations & Performance