

Tower Hamlets Crime Watch

Reducing Crime & ASB

LETTER

c/o
177 Teviot Street
London E14 6PY

REF: BG-MET-KCS-MT
DATE: 12/08/2025

TO:

Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
City Hall London SE1 2AA
Email: mayor@london.gov.uk
Via @kayajunction

COPY TO:

Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
London SW1
Email: via @metpoliceuk

Dear Sir/Madam

As a member of our independent and community-based organisation of Tower Hamlets crime fighters, I am writing to you today to ask you to kindly re-consider your plans of closing the front counter of the only publicly accessible police station that remained in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

A building, such as a Police station is an important confidence booster and milestone for all law abiding and law-enforcement friendly persons in the borough.

We urge you to carefully examine how Bethnal Green Police station is used. Aside from crime reporting, the station has other uses. From Ward Panel meetings to personal enquiries, handing in important lost and found items, which need to be logged within a secure procedure within a police station.

Our volunteers are required to hand in items like

- Found sets of car number plates
- Abandoned stolen ID from theft or robbery
- Dangerous equipment/items found in the street

These items get handled with gloves and are bagged to be handed in to the nearest police station.

We have had enquiries from members of the public who were also advised to hand important evidence to a crime into the nearest police station. Sadly, the nearest police stations seem to get further away from people's locality in Greater London with further closures of front counters.

People may not have the time to travel further to hand in important items of evidence. Time is money and working people have limited time available.

Please consider is closing a police station counter, the only one in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, really user-friendly? Should officers have to visit all people in their homes to obtain evidence? Is that timewise? Our local THEO officers, for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets cannot handle abandoned car number plates for legal reasons. Would it be safer if false numberplates are left to lay in the street until a police officer can eventually come and pick them up?

Please meet with us, to discuss possible servicing of the front counter, using affordable solutions. I, myself am a serving Met Police Volunteer and the use of Met Volunteers is one possibility to keep counters open.

Kind Regards

Johanna Kaschke

If you have any feedback concerning this letter, contact us via our known channels

THANK YOU!

<https://towerhamletscrimewatch.org>