

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Chief Superintendent Dave Stringer  
Sutton Metropolitan Police Service  
Sutton Police Station  
6 Carshalton Road  
Sutton  
SM1 4RF

23 September 2020

Our Ref: EC3190

Dear Chief Superintendent Stringer,

**RE: Community Cohesion**

I hope that this letter finds you well. May I first take the opportunity to thank you and your officers for their extraordinary work over the past few months during lockdown, and for their continued efforts in across Carshalton and Wallington to keep us safe.

As I know you are aware, community cohesion is something that I am keenly conscious of, and part of my role as the Member of Parliament is to support and champion efforts to improve this. You may know that I sit on the Women and Equalities Select Committee in Parliament – and earlier this year joined the Sutton Fairness Commission, which looks at tackling racism and improving the lives of BAME people living in Sutton – so this is an area I take great interest in, as do many of my constituents.

Of course, building communities where people – of different backgrounds and beliefs – feel confident they belong and are comfortable mixing and interacting is something that is at the heart of community policing, and I know is a priority of yours. So I should be grateful if you could provide me with an update on what steps Sutton Police is taking to improve police diversity and inclusivity, and how you are measuring success. I should also be particularly interested to hear more details about outreach initiatives that aim to continue to break down barriers between different sections of our local community.

As I know you would agree, and recognise the quote: *“the power of the police to fulfil their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour, and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect.”* It is important that we have a police force that reflects the diversity of the community it serves, and one that supports and develops workplace diversity of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion and other such protected characteristics. I should therefore also be grateful to learn more about how these issues are considered in recruitment initiatives within the workplace, and what steps are being taken to improve.

I should also be grateful if you could set out what measures are in place to ensure your service users are also treated equally and fairly, and the processes by which this is reviewed.

I look forward to hearing from you and, as ever, let me know if there is anything I can do to help and support you and your officers.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn'.

**Elliot Colburn**

Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

Serving the people of Carshalton and Wallington

Tel: 020 7219 5862

E-mail: [info@elliocolburn.co.uk](mailto:info@elliocolburn.co.uk)