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## **Westminster police merger: Assembly Member pleads with Mayor to abandon proposals**

- Sadiq Khan proposing to merge Borough Command Units (BCUs) in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham
- London Assembly member Tony Devenish raises issue at City Hall
- Westminster Council leader wrote letter outlining concerns last week

London Assembly member Tony Devenish has urged the Mayor to reassess proposals to merge police Borough Command Units in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham.

The Met trialled a similar merger in three east London boroughs last year but the experiment attracted criticism over increased emergency response times\*.

Westminster Council leader Nickie Aiken wrote to the Mayor last week outlining her serious reservations about the plans before Mr Devenish raised the matter during Mayor's Question Time yesterday (Thursday).

Sadiq Khan confirmed he would look at the concerns and report back on the proposals.

**London Assembly member Tony Devenish said:** "I'm pleased the Mayor has expressed a willingness to look further into this disastrous proposal for our boroughs.

"We have seen the consequences of this cost-cutting policy in other parts of London - it is not something we could stand for in west London.

"If Sadiq Khan is serious about improving neighbourhood policing and keeping our boroughs safe, he will cancel this proposed merger immediately."

ENDS.

### **Notes**

- Tony Devenish is the Conservative London Assembly member for the West Central constituency, consisting of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham.
- \* Khan's Met merger has left force under resourced:  
<http://www.mayorwatch.co.uk/sadiq-khans-met-merger-has-left-force-under->

[resourced-and-unable-to-provide-proactive-and-visible-policing-says-leader-of-barking-council/](#)

- Nickie Aiken's letter to Sadiq Khan:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sadiq-khan-warned-new-police-plans-could-leave-crime-hotspots-with-fewer-top-officers-a3739946.html>

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.**

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