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Deputy Commissioner Steve House
Metropolitan Police
VIA EMAIL

29th April 2022

Dear Deputy Commissioner

We are writing to you after learning from [media reports](#) that Metropolitan Police officers - including those from former Metropolitan police officer and convicted murderer Wayne Couzen's unit - shared images and made racist commentary about Sasha Johnson in a Whatsapp group with other police officers.

Mocking a young Black woman and a mother of two small children after she was shot in the head and left with catastrophic and life changing injuries is abhorrent but for this to be done by police officers is even more horrifying. It goes to the heart of how violence against women and girls manifests - especially the disproportionate violence against young Black women and women of colour, who are victims of misogyny **and** racism.

As a council we are acutely aware of the sadness, shock and devastation being felt by many in our city and communities over the extreme violence inflicted on Sasha Johnson and the fact that so far nobody responsible for the attack on her has been brought to justice.

We echo the calls of her family for anyone who has information about who hurt Sasha to come forward. We also acknowledge the dignity and strength of her family and the wider community in Oxford in supporting Sasha's two young children during the family's unimaginable and ongoing ordeal.

We call on the Metropolitan Police to provide transparency over this shameful incident and for those police officers involved to be investigated and held to account.

As a City Council we are in the process of framing our work of our Violence Against Women and Girls Taskforce - launched last year following the high-profile murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa and following the ongoing and many years of work alongside specialist organisations and community groups in the city to tackle violence against women and girls and to support victims and survivors. We commend the excellent work being led by the Mayor of London and hope that under new leadership the Metropolitan Police can take real action to tackle these endemic issues.

Cllr Susan Brown
Leader

Cllr Shaista Aziz
Cabinet Member
Inclusive Communities

Cllr Louise Upton,
Cabinet Member
for a Safer, Healthier Oxford

Cc Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
Matthew Barber PCC, Thames Valley Police