



Abena Oppong-Asare MP

Member of Parliament for Erith and Thamesmead

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: AO15079

14 December 2022

Dear The Rt Hon Braverman

Re: Murders in Abbey Wood and Thamesmead

I was absolutely devastated to learn about the two 16-year-old boys who were murdered in Thamesmead and Abbey Wood last month.

I also know that many in my community feel very concerned and unsafe as a result of what has happened. Right across London and beyond, serious youth violence has been all too common in recent years and it is essential that our whole community, our professional agencies, and our many wonderful grassroots organisations all come together to reflect on how we can prevent such tragedies from happening in the future.

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of constituents who have gotten in touch with me via email and in-person to tell me about the need to do so much more to help prevent these crimes and the current epidemic of knife crime. Locally, in my constituency of Erith and Thamesmead, there is much more to do to increase lighting, awareness and security on our streets. I urge this government to do more on these issues to help end these crimes and make families feel safer in their own community.

I strongly believe that the government can and must do more to tackle knife crime, including new police hubs and neighbourhood prevention teams. The Government have cut 6,000 officers from neighbourhood policing since 2015 and 8,000 PCSOs since 2010. Furthermore, the charge rate for violence has declined massively over recent years which has means fewer violent offenders are being punished for their crimes. These are serious failures and they need to be tackled immediately.

At Prime Minister's Questions on 30th November, I raised this issue with the Prime Minister. I do not believe his answer was sufficient enough to convince my constituents that this government can get this epidemic under control.

I want to know specifically what the government is doing to end this epidemic.

Email: abena.oppongasare.mp@parliament.uk
Press and Parliamentary Queries: 020 7219 4892
Casework Queries: 01322 342991



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Will the Prime Minister commit to take knife crime seriously, and get all relevant partners round the table to tackle this issue?

Can you give an update on the government's plans on how to crack down on knife crime?

Yours sincerely,

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