

# How many LGBT Liaison Officers/ LGBT+ Advisers are there?

Police and Crime Committee | London Assembly/ Mayor of London | 25 Jan 2021

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff**

Commissioner, how many LGBT Liaison Officers are there?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

We have 125 advisors across the Met.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

I understand the advisors. I'm talking about LGBT Liaison Officers.

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

I can't tell you that I'm afraid off the top of my head.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

Perhaps you could get back to us. Do we know whether or not Barking and Dagenham has an LGBT Liaison Officers?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

Again, I would want to be confident before I come back to you. Sorry.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

You were given the agenda of this meeting before the meeting, you know what it includes, I'm a bit surprised that you can't tell me whether or not Barking and Dagenham Police have an LGBT Liaison Officers.

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

What I can say is that we have refreshed and changed our approach both to hate crime and hate crime advice generally, and indeed to LGBT issues more than once. And I don't want to mislead you. I don't know the answer.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

Let's not muddy the waters. I don't think in my knowledge of this particular case that we are looking at that was a hate crime, it was a crime.

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

No, no.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

And so therefore what I specifically want to see is what action in the future would be taken by an investigating officer should they be presented with the cases that they had in this case or the facts they had in this case.

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

Okay. So, I would expect them to draw on appropriate advice, both from within the community, from within our network, our advisors and other resources that are available to them. What I can't do is tell you exactly what the disposition at the moment is of LGBT Liaison Officers.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

Would you say that the number of LGBT Liaison Officers have increased over the past few years, or have they been in decline?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

I would say there was a time where we relied totally on them. We now have all sorts of other structures and other ways of doing things. I can't tell you whether we've got more or less. We probably have less than we had in 2013/14, but it's a different way of doing things. We're much better in general than we were then.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

Much as I commend you using the LGBT advisory groups which have been set up, they can't be involved operationally, can they?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

I have muddled you up for which I do apologise. We have a 125 police officers and staff who are our LGBT+ Advisors. And I'd mentioned there were six in East Area. And they are a vibrant group, they're a knowledgeable group, they're an active group. And they get involved locally every day. We then have the Independent Advisory Group and they are a community based set of people. And of course we only ask them to advise, not to do.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

So, those 125 are within the Met, they are Met officers?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

Absolutely. And they're a brilliant bunch. If anybody wants to come and meet them, they're a fantastic group of people. And they're very active. And they are there to advise their colleagues and to support the BCU commander and any SIOs and anyone else who needs advice and support. And to reach out into communities.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

I don't want to extend this much further, one small question. What is the difference between the role of an LGBT Liaison Officers and an LGBT Advisor?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

So that was what I was referring to when I said we've, I will write to you, but that's what I was referring to when I said we've changed structures. We used to have a few Liaison Officers, not very many. We now have a large number of advisors. And I don't know how many Liaison Officers we actually have. But what we do have is a very powerful set of internal advisors. And we also have our staff network. We also have our Independent Advisory Group. And we have reference forums externally as well. All of whom, subject to what the issue is, will help in different ways in advice. And in terms of the advisors, they will often be actively operationally engaged on a particular case.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

They will be?

**Commissioner Cressida Dick:**

They will be. Absolutely.

**Assembly Member Andrew Boff:**

Okay.