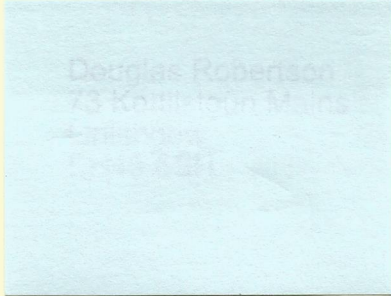




HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA



Our Ref: MD34979

Date: 16 October 2023

Re: MD34979

Dear Mr Robertson,

I am writing to you regarding your enquiry about ongoing incidents of anti-social behaviour in Linlithgow.

After a meeting with the Chief Constable, the following was agreed:

"As I mapped out during our Teams discussion on 28/09/2023 we have observed a tangible increase in the levels of anti-social behaviour, much of which is non-criminal and perpetrated by young people under the age of 16, however and nonetheless the impact on the local community is real.

You reference young people who may be taking drugs and whilst this may well be accurate, we have not seen discernible signs of this in our young people in the area but it is something we do and will continue to look out for in our interactions going forward.

The theft of the statue from St Michael's is of course deeply regrettable and we have recorded it as a hate crime in line with our definition, which is:

A hate crime is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group.

For reasons that are well understood we do not challenge the nature of individual perceptions, equally though it can be difficult to establish from an evidential perspective the motivations behind certain crime types, especially when (as is the case in this instance) the offender has not been identified. I can confirm however that a full and thorough investigation has been carried out in line with our Hate Crime Protocols.

In order to best address the wider ASB issue, we along with our partnership colleagues have spent considerable time discussing options and intervention strategies to best tackle the issues.

Our community officers have increased their patrols within the area, supported by colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP), who have conducted street surgeries and outreach work.

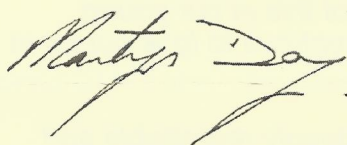
Of course the longer term solution to these issues lies in prevention and more specifically diversionary activity. Therefore we are keen to understand more about what is available for young people living in Linlithgow, as we are for young people in all parts of the County.

Meantime we will continue to provide increased patrols by our Local Policing Teams in the area supported by colleagues within the Mounted Branch and officers from our Business Crime Prevention Team. The Mounted Branch provide fantastic support in terms of high visibility and a novelty factor that resonates with the local community and of course would be offenders. Our Business Crime Prevention Officer will pay visits to local retailers to help support them in combatting many of the challenges face by local business premises from an ASB and Acquisitive Crime perspective."

I trust this information is helpful. I suggest that any future incidents are reported to Police Scotland, however, please do not hesitate to contact me again if there is no improvement.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,



Martyn Day MP

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You can view the privacy policy for the office of Martyn Day MP by visiting <http://www.martynday.scot/privacy-policy.html>

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