

26th November 2025

Dear Shadow Home Secretary and Mr Timothy,

I have had an opportunity to consider the relevant section of the Hansard record, of the Urgent Question on Monday 24 November 2025, in so far as it relates to your respective contributions. I am grateful to you, for having raised this important matter in the House of Commons.

In the Hansard record, Mr Timothy alleges that West Midlands Police, based its intelligence assessments of the risks posed by Maccabi Tel Aviv ("MTA") fans on "fiction". Mr Timothy concludes that West Midlands Police is, "accused of fabricating intelligence and misleading the public".

The Shadow Home Secretary said that the concerns raised by West Midlands Police, regarding MTA fans "were completely false" and "just made up". It is stated that, West Midlands Police provided "false information".

These are serious allegations and I acknowledge the concerns expressed by Members in the House and the wider public interest. I am treating the allegations very seriously. I have today written to Chief Constable Craig Guildford QPM VR DL, to seek assurance on the following matters:

1. The accuracy, credibility, reliability and provenance of the intelligence received by West Midlands Police from the Dutch police.
2. That the intelligence received from the Dutch police was interpreted accurately, fairly and reasonably by West Midlands Police, when preparing its recommendations for the Birmingham City Council Safety Advisory Group meeting on 16 October 2025.
3. Whether intelligence was shared with Home Office, prior to the Birmingham City Council decision to bar the MTA fans from the fixture, and if so, whether concerns were raised by Home Office, regarding either the substance of the intelligence and the interpretation of its importance.
4. Whether the National Police Chiefs' Council UK Football Policing Unit rapid review, undertaken after 16 October, considered the intelligence and whether any concerns were raised regarding its substance or interpretation.

I have read the article in *The Sunday Times*, "Police 'used fake claims' to ban Maccabi fans from Aston Villa game", published online on Saturday 22 November 2025.

In order to ensure, that I can effectively hold the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account, I respectfully ask that you provide me with copies of any direct or indirect evidence that you have in your possession or control relating to these allegations, beyond the report in *The Sunday Times*. It is vitally important, that any relevant documentation or other corroborating evidence, on which you have relied when framing your allegations, is shared with me, to enable an assessment of its accuracy, credibility, reliability and provenance.

The statutory responsibility, for holding the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account rests with me, not the Home Secretary, Policing Minister or Members of Parliament. Accordingly, I consider it to be crucial, that you co-operate fully with me and provide any assistance you can, so as to enable me to hold the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account, in accordance with all due process and the law.

More specifically, the allegations you both made in the House speak to potential misconduct by West Midlands Police Officers. If this is your belief, and you have evidence to substantiate such concerns, then I advise you to make referrals as appropriate. If you can make an evidenced allegation relating to the conduct of Chief Constable Guildford, then I am the appropriate authority, and these allegations should be put to me. If you can make an evidenced allegation relating to the conduct of any other Officer under Chief Constable Guildford's direction and control, then the referral should be made to the West Midlands Police Professional Standards Department in the first instance, contact details for which are on the West Midlands Police website.

It is my intention to require a report from West Midlands Police, at a forthcoming meeting of my Accountability and Governance Board on 27 January 2026. These meetings are public, livestreamed, and the minutes, agendas and reports are published on my website. Any documentary evidence or corroborating evidence you can provide, as requested in this letter, would be of assistance in supporting this meeting.

You might be aware, that West Midlands Police's Assistant Chief Constable Mike O'Hara and I have separately written to Dame Karen Bradley MP, in response to questions from the Home Affairs Committee. Our letters have been published on the Committee's web pages. Chief Constable Guildford and I have subsequently been invited to give oral evidence to the Committee at a forthcoming session, the date of which has not yet been confirmed, but is likely to be on Monday 1 December 2025.

It would be of significant assistance to me, if you were able to provide me with an urgent and substantive reply to this letter, including provision of copies of any direct or indirect evidence within your possession or control, in accordance with the request in this letter, prior to my attendance at the Home Affairs Committee on Monday 1 December. As you have acknowledged, as a consequence of the Urgent Question to the House, this is a matter of urgency.

I therefore request that you reply to me by 4.00pm on Friday 28 November 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Foster
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner