



*Chief Inspector Barrie Capper
South West BCU Neighbourhoods*

Dear Residents of Galpin's Road,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to update you on the investigation and progress at Galpin's Road.

I can now confirm that as of 16:00hrs today, Friday 28th October 2022, the police search phase is complete.

Whilst this concludes the forensic search of the scene, there remains still a significant amount of work on the wider investigation. Met Specialist Crime Command continue to examine the circumstances surrounding the gas explosion, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive. The investigation will involve further forensic tests, along with other lines of enquiry. Due to the investigation's complexity and scale, we are not able to give you time scales for completion, however, we will continue to provide updates on a monthly basis going forward.

In terms of Galpin's Road, my officers have handed over responsibility of the site to Merton Council, who are working hard to get you back to your homes as soon as safely possible. It will likely take a few days for the site to be cleared and full access restored.

With the exceptions of houses 251, 253, 255, 257 and 259 – which will have hording erected to secure them safely – every other house within the cordon area has been made secure with locks, and any damaged doors and windows boarded up.

In addition to this, Merton Council have instructed Kingdom Security to deliver 24/7 coverage of Galpin's Road, and provide you all with reassurance whilst your properties remain unoccupied.

I would like to assure you that although officers are no longer physically holding the police cordons throughout the day, there will still be local officers carrying out patrols of the Galpin's Road area. They are there to support you, and answer any questions and concerns you may have, as well as provide a policing presence.

Many of you will have spoken to PC Amanda Stonehouse over the last few weeks. She will continue as our dedicated point of contact. Please don't hesitate to liaise with her, as many of you have been doing.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank you for your patience, understanding and support during this unprecedented incident. My thoughts, and those of my officers, continue to be with Sahara's family, those injured and their families. I know my colleagues in specialist crime will continue to work tirelessly to understand what led to the heart-breaking loss of Sahara's life.

Best regards,

Chief Inspector Barrie Capper
Metropolitan Police Service
South West BCU Neighbourhood Strand