



*Chief Inspector Barrie Capper  
South West BCU Neighbourhoods*

Dear Residents of Galpin's Road,

I am writing to update you with progress at Galpin's Road.

Since the day of the explosion in which Sahara was killed, the investigation team and local officers have worked tremendously hard to give her family and the wider community answers. This work continues.

To date, the team has focused on removing over 20 metres of gas pipe in a safe and forensically robust manner. This has required a significant amount of planning and coordination, across multiple Met Police departments and other organisations. This phase of the investigation has been completed and the focus has now moved to conducting a forensic search of 253, 255 and 257 Galpin's Road. This will be conducted by specialist police search teams. Before this can be done, the site needs to be made safe and accessible to the large number of specialist facilities that are required to undertake work relating to the demolition of the three houses.

Progress of the investigation is regularly reviewed and recently the contractors, Wates, have identified a demolition approach which may reduce the risk of further damage to surrounding properties. This will be clearly very important to those families whose homes are adjacent to the site of the explosion. Also, we very much want to ensure that as much personal property as possible can be recovered from 253, 255 and 257, and restored to those families, whose homes must sadly be demolished.

Unfortunately, this revised approach to the next phase of the investigation will add approximately two weeks onto the amount of time we will be working at Galpin's Road. We know how disappointing this will be to those families who remain unable to return home. However, we hope you will understand some of the very difficult decisions that are being made on daily basis to ensure we conduct a robust investigation, that we preserve homes and property wherever practical, and that we get people back into their homes as soon as possible.

From the beginning of this tragic situation, we have committed to be as open and as transparent as we possibly could, without compromising the investigation. We will continue to be so. The revised estimated end date is now Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 but we must caution that the investigation is fluid and we do not know what unexpected issues might occur between now and then.

There will be another message following shortly to update you on the upcoming visits scheduled for this weekend - Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October 2022. PC Amanda Stonehouse will contact you directly to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

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