

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Direct entry will 'tap into talent', says Met commissioner

The police service could have to wait 'a generation' to get a representative police force if those joining are forced to go through all ranks before gaining a senior position, according to the Met commissioner.

Talented candidates joining the police can be "inhibited and flattened" before they reach senior ranks, Bernard Hogan-Howe told the Commons home affairs select committee this week when asked about direct entry into the service.

"Few organisations take 15 to 20 years to get to the top. My point is there is a pool of people out there we could get in who are very talented."

Mr Hogan-Howe has advocated direct entry into more senior ranks to 'tap into a pool of people who are more representative'.

Lorraine Fullbrook, Conservative MP, asked what the commissioner planned to do to make the Met more effective and efficient as they discussed challenges faced by the commissioner and debated tactics used during the August riots.

"We need to look at our tactics and be far more flexible than we appeared over three days [during the riots]."

He said it was vital that control is kept and that the police need to respond "rigorously" right from the beginning to stop it getting out of control. He added that Merseyside's tactics - to get as many officers on the streets as possible - were the right ones but that they had 24 hours' notice.

Mr Hogan-Howe also added that the Met needed good intelligence and has the resources to respond to any particular threat.

He also spoke about police cuts and said the force would have to 'share more things in the Met', such as IT, but he also said that the Tom Winsor report, Part One, which has already been published, and Part Two due in January 'would deliver some savings, which would be helpful'.