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8th August 2024

Good Evening,

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the current position in Leeds regarding recent disorder across the country and reassure you that we continue to monitor relevant intelligence relating to the possibility of further incidents

West Yorkshire Police has stood up specialist public order trained resources as part of the national coordinated response to incidents of disorder for deployment locally and as part of national mutual aid requirements. West Yorkshire Police are experienced and well-prepared in terms of planning for, and managing incidents such as these should they occur. Uniformed officers are visible in communities across Leeds to reassure residents, manage planned events, and carry out day to day policing. If issues arise, we have the necessary resources in place to manage and respond to any eventuality

West Yorkshire Police has a clear approach to investigation and will leave no stone unturned to bring those involved to justice using all the investigative tools available to us to that end. We will ensure all necessary resources are brought to bear, to swiftly identify and arrest those responsible. Our message to anyone considering involvement in this type of criminality is clear - if you cause violence, you will face the full force of the law and we have the full backing of our criminal justice partners.

This is a time for communities to unite and support each other - they shouldn't have to experience the disgraceful disorder carried out by a minority whose only aim is to divide us. I am very proud of how the communities of Leeds have responded to national events so far. I can confirm that at this time there are no planned events in Leeds similar to those seen up and down the country in the last week. There are lots of rumours and disinformation across all forms of social media and I appeal for calm at this time.

Officers continue to be visible in all communities across Leeds in our usual role of policing and reassure residents in every way we can. Racism and hatred will not be tolerated. I call on the community to report crime which we will investigate to the best of our capabilities.

Finally, I would like to thank our partners Leeds City Council, elected officials and all communities that have worked tireless with us to ensure a safe city for everyone.

Regards

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Steve Dodds Chief Superintendent Leeds District Commander