# Ex-metropolitan officer claims Sadiq Khan’s inaction in child trafficking scandal sparks calls for urgent inquiry



A decorated ex-Metropolitan Police officer, Jon Wedger, has made alarming allegations that girls as young as nine were being trafficked and prostituted across London, claims that have prompted serious questions about the response of Mayor Sadiq Khan. Wedger asserts he holds detailed evidence—names, dates, locations—of victims being exploited in crack houses, hotels, and even upscale Mayfair restaurants, where some were reportedly traded for sums as high as £2,000. These revelations, shared with the Met Police and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in 2022, have ignited fierce criticism of Khan’s alleged inaction.

The central question raised by Wedger and echoed by critics is whether Khan, who has been Mayor of London for close to a decade, genuinely prioritises the safety of vulnerable children. Despite repeatedly being pressed in the London Assembly—on at least nine occasions—Khan has declined to confirm awareness or comment substantively on the purported widespread grooming gangs operating in the capital, which Wedger claims have existed on an unprecedented scale for more than 20 years. The ex-detective has also recounted threats from senior police that raised the stakes for anyone attempting to expose these abuses, including warnings that he could lose his job, home, and family.

Wedger’s claims have found some support at the national political level. Labour leader Keir Starmer has invited him to contribute to the government’s forthcoming inquiry into grooming gangs, a move seen as significant given reports that the Prime Minister was initially reluctant to launch such an inquiry, possibly due to concerns it might implicate police, council officials, and politicians. This contrasts with Khan’s perceived reluctance: critics accuse the Mayor of deliberately stalling or blocking investigations, a charge Khan’s office denies, stating that victim support and national-level actions remain priorities.

Additional exposes from whistleblowers and retired detectives reinforce Wedger’s account, alleging systemic cover-ups and neglect by senior officials in London. One whistleblower identified at least 52 victims—some trafficked from care homes—highlighting a grim picture of industrial-scale child sexual exploitation. These sources call for Khan’s immediate removal, attributing the Mayor’s inaction to either failure in duty or a political calculus aimed at avoiding alienation of parts of London’s Muslim community, which forms a significant electoral base.

The broader political arena has also reacted strongly. Conservative London Assembly members have pushed for a dedicated City Hall-led inquiry to investigate grooming gangs across the capital’s boroughs, arguing that local resources and oversight would be essential to uncovering the full extent of abuse. Meanwhile, Reform UK members have vocally condemned Khan for dodging accountability during assembly questioning, further eroding confidence in his leadership on this critical issue.

Khan’s tenure has been marked by rising crime rates in London, with knife crime increasing by nearly 60% in the last three years and reported rapes up 24% in 2022. Sexual offences in some parts of the city, such as Westminster, have also risen. Critics argue that such metrics underscore a broader failure to safeguard vulnerable populations under Khan’s watch, adding weight to calls for a more transparent and urgent response to the grooming gang allegations.

Khan himself has, in other contexts, highlighted problems within the Metropolitan Police, particularly following the Child Q scandal—where a 15-year-old was strip-searched at school without appropriate support. He has publicly criticised the Met for institutional failings concerning discrimination and insufficient public support, suggesting that while he is vocal about police accountability, his approach to the grooming gang issue remains opaque and contentious.

The Mayor’s defenders emphasise ongoing government efforts to support victims of sexual abuse and the implementation of national inquiry recommendations, with Khan's office stating that combatting such crimes is a clear priority. However, the absence of a London-specific inquiry and the persistent silence on Wedger’s detailed allegations fuel suspicions that political considerations may be impeding effective action.

In summary, the serious and detailed allegations of child trafficking and exploitation presented by Wedger and other whistleblowers have placed Sadiq Khan at the centre of an intense political and moral storm. The Mayor’s reluctance to engage publicly and transparently on these claims has led to widespread condemnation and demands for accountability, prompting calls for urgent investigations to ensure justice for victims and restore public confidence in London’s governance and safety.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace), [[3]](https://www.newenglishreview.org/sadiq-khans-huge-grooming-gang-failure-exposed-by-met-police-whistleblower/), [[2]](https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1343768-whistleblower-exposes-alleged-grooming-gang-cover-up-by-londons-mayor-sadiq-khan)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace), [[3]](https://www.newenglishreview.org/sadiq-khans-huge-grooming-gang-failure-exposed-by-met-police-whistleblower/), [[5]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/sadiq-khan-grooming-gangs-london-reform-uk-outrageous)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace), [[2]](https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1343768-whistleblower-exposes-alleged-grooming-gang-cover-up-by-londons-mayor-sadiq-khan), [[3]](https://www.newenglishreview.org/sadiq-khans-huge-grooming-gang-failure-exposed-by-met-police-whistleblower/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/grooming-gangs-sadiq-khan-tories-labour-government-inquiry-b1204133.html), [[5]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/sadiq-khan-grooming-gangs-london-reform-uk-outrageous), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace), [[5]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/sadiq-khan-grooming-gangs-london-reform-uk-outrageous)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.gbnews.com/news/sadiq-khan-slams-met-police-for-not-supporting-public-after-child-q-scandal/254218), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace)
* Paragraph 8 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/grooming-gangs-sadiq-khan-tories-labour-government-inquiry-b1204133.html), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace)
* Paragraph 9 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace), [[3]](https://www.newenglishreview.org/sadiq-khans-huge-grooming-gang-failure-exposed-by-met-police-whistleblower/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2109177/sadiq-khan-useless-disgrace> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1343768-whistleblower-exposes-alleged-grooming-gang-cover-up-by-londons-mayor-sadiq-khan> - A retired Metropolitan Police detective has publicly accused London Mayor Sadiq Khan of a 'cover-up' and 'willful neglect' regarding child sexual exploitation. The whistleblower claims to have identified at least 52 victims of abuse by a sex gang targeting care homes in London, with children as young as nine being trafficked for prostitution on an industrial scale. Despite presenting evidence, the detective alleges that investigations were systematically shut down by senior police and council officials, with threats made against his career and personal life. The whistleblower calls for Khan's immediate removal from office for his alleged inaction and neglect of the issue.
3. <https://www.newenglishreview.org/sadiq-khans-huge-grooming-gang-failure-exposed-by-met-police-whistleblower/> - Retired detective Jon Wedger has exposed significant failures by Mayor Sadiq Khan in addressing grooming gangs in London. Wedger claims to have uncovered evidence of children aged nine to 14 being trafficked for prostitution on an industrial scale, including being sold in crack houses and traded for large sums at upmarket restaurants in Mayfair. Despite identifying 52 potential victims, Wedger alleges that his investigations were blocked by senior police and council officials, with threats made against his career and personal life. He calls for Khan's immediate removal from office for his alleged neglect and cover-up of the issue.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/grooming-gangs-sadiq-khan-tories-labour-government-inquiry-b1204133.html> - Conservative members of the London Assembly are demanding that Mayor Sadiq Khan initiate a London-specific inquiry into historic child sexual exploitation. They argue that there is a strong possibility that grooming gangs have operated in the capital and that a City Hall-led inquiry would have significant resources to draw conclusions from all 32 of London's boroughs. In response, Khan's office stated that supporting victims of rape and sexual assault remains a top priority and that ministers are already taking action following the previous government's failure to implement recommendations from the national inquiry into child sexual abuse.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/sadiq-khan-grooming-gangs-london-reform-uk-outrageous> - Reform UK London Assembly member Alex Wilson has accused Mayor Sadiq Khan of failing to take the issue of grooming gangs seriously. This criticism follows a heated exchange at City Hall where Khan repeatedly refused to answer whether he was aware of grooming gangs operating in London. Wilson described the Mayor's response as 'ridiculous' and suggested that Khan was attempting to provoke a controversial response from former London Tory leader Susan Hall, who had questioned him on the matter.
6. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/sadiq-khan-slams-met-police-for-not-supporting-public-after-child-q-scandal/254218> - Mayor Sadiq Khan has criticized the Metropolitan Police for not providing adequate support to Londoners following the Child Q scandal. The case involved a 15-year-old schoolgirl who was strip-searched by female officers at her school without another adult present and while she was menstruating. Khan stated that the incident is 'another example of the Met police service falling below the standards we expect from them' and highlighted deep cultural issues within the force related to racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/04/24/sadiq-khan-would-pay-if-he-saw-somebody-shoplifting-nappies/> - In an interview with The Big Issue magazine, Mayor Sadiq Khan stated that he would pay for shoplifted goods if he saw someone stealing nappies from a supermarket. He expressed concern over the tagging of baby products due to shoplifting and mentioned that if he witnessed such an incident, he would pay for the items on behalf of the person involved. This statement highlights Khan's commitment to supporting families during the cost of living crisis.