

# ABENA OPPONG-ASARE MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ERITH AND THAMESMEAD

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SHADOW CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3 June 2020

To whom it may concern

I am writing in light of the recent death of Belly Mujinga who sadly died from COVID-19 following complaints that she was spat at by a member of the public.

I have been contacted by a huge number of constituents who are extremely concerned regarding the result of the investigation into the death of Ms Mujinga. I am aware that after investigations, the British Transport Police have found that Ms Mujinga did not die as a direct result of being spat at by a member of the public and have concluded that no further action will be taken.

I am concerned that this sends a very concerning message to the public and to all public facing workers during this crisis. I cannot comment on your investigation as I do not know the actions your officers took however, I cannot stay silent given the seriousness of this situation and the concern shown by my constituents.

If a man did in fact spit at two transport workers, as reported by Ms Mjuinga's family members, then this is assault and a serious threat to public health, even if the man identified was not carrying COVID-19. According to reports the man accused of spitting also shouted that he has COVID-19 at transport staff. I am curious as to why this incident was not pursued at the time by the British Transport Police.

Accounts of the person's actions also infer that he was not travelling as a necessity to attend a key working environment or for other essential reasons. If the person accused of spitting was on a non-essential journey this means that he broke lockdown rules and put the health of key workers at risk. I am therefore concerned that the breach of lockdown was not immediately followed up by the British Transport Police either.

I am sure you can appreciate the concern that many feel for themselves and their relatives following this investigation and I believe it would be helpful if more information was provided to the general public about the enquiries that took place.

I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter detailing any plans you have to provide further information to the public regarding this situation. Please quote the reference number (AO1559) in future correspondence with my office in order for us to track this case.

Tel: 020 7219 4892

Email: [abena.oppongare.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:abena.oppongare.mp@parliament.uk)

Thank you for your service during this crisis and for your understanding of the public's concern regarding the death of Ms Mujinga.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abena', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Abena Oppong-Asare MP