



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:  
Oldham Office  
11 Church Lane  
Oldham OL1 3AN  
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council  
Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01140953

26 November 2014

Dear Carolyn

**Re: Cuts to Police Funding**

Further to my previous letter in response to the above resolution; Please find enclosed a copy of the reply you received from Mike Pennington at the Home Office. I have merely received a copy of the same reply in response to my letter on the council's behalf.

The reply is disingenuous to say the least; statements relating to 'streamlining' and 'greater collaboration' fool no one. Police numbers and budgets have been cut drastically over the last few years and complaints about the lack of police in the area have trebled in my office. Constituents are particularly concerned about the reduction to Neighbourhood Teams that were obviously very popular with local residents.

I certainly think that the issue of policing needs to be reviewed urgently and I am sure local councillors will agree.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
Oldham West & Royton  
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



Home Office

**Rt Hon Mike Penning MP**  
**Minister of State for Policing, Criminal**  
**Justice and Victims**

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
11 Church Lane  
Oldham  
OL1 3AN

CTS Reference: M16172/14  
Your Reference: SB/OMBC01002/01140953

18 NOV 2014

*Dear Michael*

Thank you for your letter of 5 November to the Rt Hon Damian Green MP on behalf of Dr Carolyn Wilkins, the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, about cuts to police funding in Manchester. I am replying as the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

Dr Wilkins also wrote to the Home Secretary on this issue and I enclose a copy of our response (T16412/14) for your information.

I hope this clarifies the Government's position.

*Regards*  
*MP*

**Rt Hon Mike Penning MP**



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848  
Fax: 020 7035 4745  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Oldham Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham  
OL1 1UG

Reference: T16412/14

Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to the Home Secretary about cuts to police funding in Manchester. I am replying as an official responsible for police funding.

I note your concerns about cuts to police funding in Manchester and how you feel this is affecting neighbourhood policing. However, the Government has no choice but to deal with the deficit. The funding settlement for the police is a challenging one, but as the latest report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) 'Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge' has found, forces are balancing their books whilst delivering reductions in crime and high levels of public satisfaction. Like all parts of the public sector, the police must play their part in helping to tackle the deficit. But there is no question that the police will still have the resources to do their important work.

The police can and are making savings without affecting the level of service to the public, for example:

- through greater collaboration across operational and support services;
- through improved procurement of goods and services (including uniforms and equipment); and,
- by improving productivity, including taking a more collaborative, streamlined approach to working with other criminal justice agencies, reduced bureaucracy and improved digital working.

Ultimately, decisions on the size and composition of a police force's workforce are for individual Chief Officers and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Also, it is important to note that what matters is how officers are deployed, not how many of them there are. All forces need to look at the way frontline services are delivered to ensure that the quality of service provided is maintained or improved. As HMIC has made clear, there

is no simple link between officer numbers and crime levels, between numbers and the visibility of police in the community or between numbers and the quality of service provided. I note from your letter that you have written to both the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, therefore they will be able to respond to your concerns about neighbourhood policing.

According to the most recent HMIC report, 'Responding to Austerity' (July 2014), recorded crime has fallen by 19 percent in Manchester between 2010/11 and 2013/14. It also states that over the spending review period, the force has reduced crime at a higher rate than the figure for England and Wales. Additionally the force received an overall rating of 'Good' from HMIC. Therefore, Greater Manchester Police are managing to deliver reductions in crime whilst responding to their financial challenge.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi De Souza

Email: [Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)