



Home Office

Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP
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Joe Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 9 September to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary regarding crime, anti-social behaviour and serious violence. Your letter has been passed to me to respond as the Minister for Crime and Policing. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Government is committed to doing whatever it takes to prevent and reduce crime. We have been clear that cutting crime is central to the Government's mission of levelling up the country. That is why we recently published the Beating Crime Plan, which sets out our strategic approach to cutting crime: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. Moreover, we have taken action to make sure we give the police the funding and resources they need. We are well underway in our work to recruit an additional 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales, for which Greater Manchester has benefitted from an additional 455 officers. Moreover, we have increased funding for Greater Manchester Police this year (2021/22) by up to £30 million. This follows the biggest national funding increase for the police in a decade last year (2020/21).

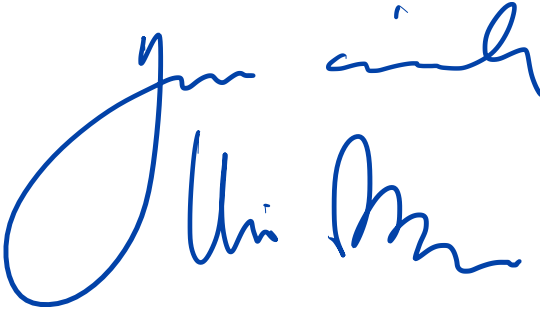
We have provided police, local authorities and other local agencies with a range of flexible tools and powers that they can use to respond quickly and effectively to anti-social behaviour through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Home Office has also published [statutory guidance](#) to support local areas to make effective use of these powers, which we strengthened earlier this year. I would also draw your attention to the Government's £45 million Safer Streets Fund, which is designed to reduce neighbourhood and acquisitive crime. Many of the measures which this Fund supports will also help tackle anti-social behaviour through crime prevention measures such as improved street lighting and CCTV. Greater Manchester was successful in all of the previous funding rounds for the Safer Streets Fund and has secured a total funding package of over £2.1 million, shared between Greater Manchester Police and Manchester City Council across different funding rounds.

In relation to tackling serious violence, I remain steadfast in my commitment to working with you and others to tackle this. Through the Serious Violence Fund (SVF), the Home Office has invested c.£246 million over three years in the 18 police force areas most affected by serious violence. During those three years, £140.1 million of SVF funding has been allocated to the 18 police forces areas to help deliver a targeted and data driven response to violence via high visibility police patrols in violence hotspots. Greater Manchester Police has been allocated £10.121 million of this funding. The remaining £105.5 million remaining from the SVF not used for this purpose has been invested in multi-agency Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in the same 18 areas, with £10.11 million allocated to Greater Manchester Police to develop the Manchester VRU.

We are also investing c.£17 million into early intervention and prevention programmes, delivered via VRUs. I know that Greater Manchester VRU has been awarded £226,000 for their Trauma Informed Training Programme for frontline professionals to help them develop a greater understanding of the prevalence and pervasive impact of different types of trauma, such as abuse, that may have been faced by the children and young people they work with. Furthermore, £332,000 has been allocated for the 'Teachable Moments programme', an intervention for young people involved in serious violence which focuses on key moments in their life where there is maximum chance of learning and impact being made, for example admission to A&E or police custody, to connect them to a package of support to help them to a more positive life course. These are just two examples demonstrating our commitment to tackling serious violence and which Greater Manchester has benefitted from. Moreover, we have invested £200 million in early intervention and prevention support initiatives over ten years to support children and young people at risk of exploitation and involvement in serious violence, through the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF). In total, eight grantees in Greater Manchester are in receipt of funding from all grant rounds. We know there is more to do in combating serious violence, which is why we have included measures in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

Finally, I would like to address your concerns in relation to domestic abuse. This is an appalling crime and we are committed to ensuring that all victims of domestic abuse receive the support they need, when they need it. We introduced the landmark Domestic Abuse Act last year alongside a comprehensive action plan of non-legislative measures. The Act received Royal Assent earlier this year and is now law. It will provide further protections to those who experience domestic abuse, as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. Later this year, the Government will publish an ambitious Domestic Abuse Strategy which will go further. The strategy will help transform the whole of society's response to domestic abuse in order to prevent it happening, support victims and pursue perpetrators. The pandemic has brought new challenges to tackling this crime as more people have stayed at home and it is right that our response has adapted to ensure we respond effectively. That is why the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have introduced a new legal duty within the Domestic Abuse Act on Tier 1 local authorities to provide support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation including refuges, backed by £125 million of Government funding (in 2021/22) to ensure that these vital services are available to anyone who needs them, wherever they live. Furthermore, in January of this year we launched the 'Ask for ANI' codeword scheme in over 4,000 pharmacies across the UK, to ensure victims of domestic abuse can access much needed support in a safe and discreet way in a setting local to them.

I hope we can continue to work closely with you and other partners to tackle the pressing issues which you have raised.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP