Home Office

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime

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Ms Shelley Kipling
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22 October 2026

Dear Ms Kipling,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September regarding the Council's concerns about reckless driving and the use of vehicles such as off-road bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters for crime and anti-social behaviour.

I recognise the serious concerns raised about the dangerous and anti-social use of off-road motorcycles, illegally modified e-bikes and other vehicles, and the distress and disruption this behaviour can cause to residents and local communities.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the police have the powers they need to tackle vehicles being used illegally or anti-socially. We have also strengthened police powers to deal with the anti-social use of vehicles. Changes to section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 remove the requirement for officers to issue a warning before seizing a vehicle being used in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance. This makes it easier and quicker for police to seize vehicles being used anti-socially, supporting more immediate action against off-road bikes, dangerous e-scooters and other vehicles being used unlawfully or irresponsibly.

On your point about concealing identity, wearing a face covering is not in itself an offence. However, Section 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives police the power to require individuals to remove face coverings where they believe they are being worn for the purpose of concealing identity, subject to geographical and time limits.

We are also strengthening the powers available to the police and other local agencies by increasing the upper limit for fixed penalty notices for breaches of Community Protection Notices and Public Spaces Protection Orders from £100 to £500, increasing the time a dispersal direction can be implemented from 48 to 72 hours and giving registered social housing providers the power to issue closure notices, amongst others.

Combined, these proposals will help tackle the scourge of vehicles being ridden anti-socially and illegally by sending a clear message to would-be offenders and local communities that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

Alongside legislative action, the Government is investing in neighbourhood policing through the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, recognising the vital role that visible local

policing plays in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and maintaining public confidence. This includes strengthening the neighbourhood policing presence in communities and improving engagement between police forces and local residents.

I can also advise you that the Home Office is piloting Young Futures Panels, which bring together the police, children's services, education and youth justice to identify children and young people at risk of being drawn into crime and refer them to suitable support earlier. In the first six months of delivery, Panels discussed more than 3,000 children, leading to over 1,700 referrals to early intervention support and more than 350 referrals to statutory services. This work complements, rather than replaces, robust enforcement against those who commit criminal offences or persistently harm their communities.

With regard to police funding, since the election, we have increased funding to policing by £2 billion. Total investment in the overall policing system is £21.2 billion this year. This year, funding to police forces has increased to its highest cash level of up to £18.5 billion, a 4.5% cash increase compared to the previous year. All forces will receive a real terms uplift in their funding this year.

In 2026-27, Greater Manchester Police will receive up to £911.5 million of funding, an increase of up to £33.3 million compared to 2025-26, which equates to a 3.8% cash increase and 1.8% real terms increase. Forces are operationally independent, and the deployment of resources remains an operational decision.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Very best wishes,



Sarah Jones MP
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